WEDNESDAY
October 18, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

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Vol.54 • No.247

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M.P. POLL MANIFESTO

Congress promises IPL team, OBC reservation

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Hundreds of tests planned: ISRO chief

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SENSATIONAL UPSET

Edwards sparkles as the Dutchmen down Proteas

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Magisterial probe ordered into Attibele cracker shop fire

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the Attibele firecracker tragedy on October 7, which resulted in the death of 16 persons, mostly in their late teens and twenties.

According to a notification issued on Tuesday, Bengaluru Division Regional Commissioner Amalan Aditya Biswas will conduct the inquiry that will look into the reasons for the incident.

He has been given three months' time to complete the inquiry and submit the report.

He has also been asked to inspect the area to verify if the shopkeeper had obtained a licence for the firecracker godown and if there were any lapses in providing a licence.

Cannot legalise same-sex marriage, says SC Bench

A majority opinion of the five-judge Constitution Bench says only the legislature can recognise such marriage, and courts cannot intervene; it adds there is no fundamental right to marry

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court on Tuesday held that only the legislature can recognise or regulate same-sex marriage. The Bench reasoned that since there was no fundamental or unqualified right to marry, the courts cannot intervene.

However, the Bench failed to reach a consensus on providing even long-abiding relationships between same-sex couples the status of a legally recognised "civil union". This was despite all five judges on the Bench unanimously accepting that it was time to end discrimination against same-sex couples.

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, who became a minority on the Bench with Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul, declared that queer people had a fundamental right to form relationships and the State was obligated to recognise and grant legal status to such unions, so that same-sex couples could avail themselves of the material benefits provided by law.

Justices S.R. Bhat and Hima Kohli, in their opinion backed by a separate one by Justice P.S. Narasimha to form the majority judgment, held that "an entitlement to legal recognition of the right to union – akin to marriage or civil union, or conferring legal status upon the parties to the relationship – can be only through enacted law".

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Day of despair: LGBTQIA+ community members react to the Supreme Court order, in Mumbai on Tuesday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

LGBTQIA+ activists voice disappointment

NEW DELHI
Voicing their disappointment in the Supreme Court verdict on same-sex marriage, LGBTQIA+ activists and legal experts said that whatever recognitions have been granted in the minority judgments were good and welcome but "not enough". » PAGE 14

At least 500 killed in Israeli airstrike on Gaza hospital

Associated Press
KHAN YOUNIS, GAZA STRIP

At least 500 people were killed in an Israeli airstrike which hit a Gaza City hospital packed with wounded and other Palestinians seeking shelter, the Gaza Health Ministry said on Tuesday. If confirmed, the attack would be by far the deadliest Israeli airstrike in five wars fought since 2008. Photos from al-Ahli Hospital showed fire engulfing its halls, and shattered glass and body parts scattered across the area.

Several hospitals in Gaza City have become refuge for hundreds of people after Israel ordered all residents of the city and surrounding areas to evacuate to the southern Gaza Strip.

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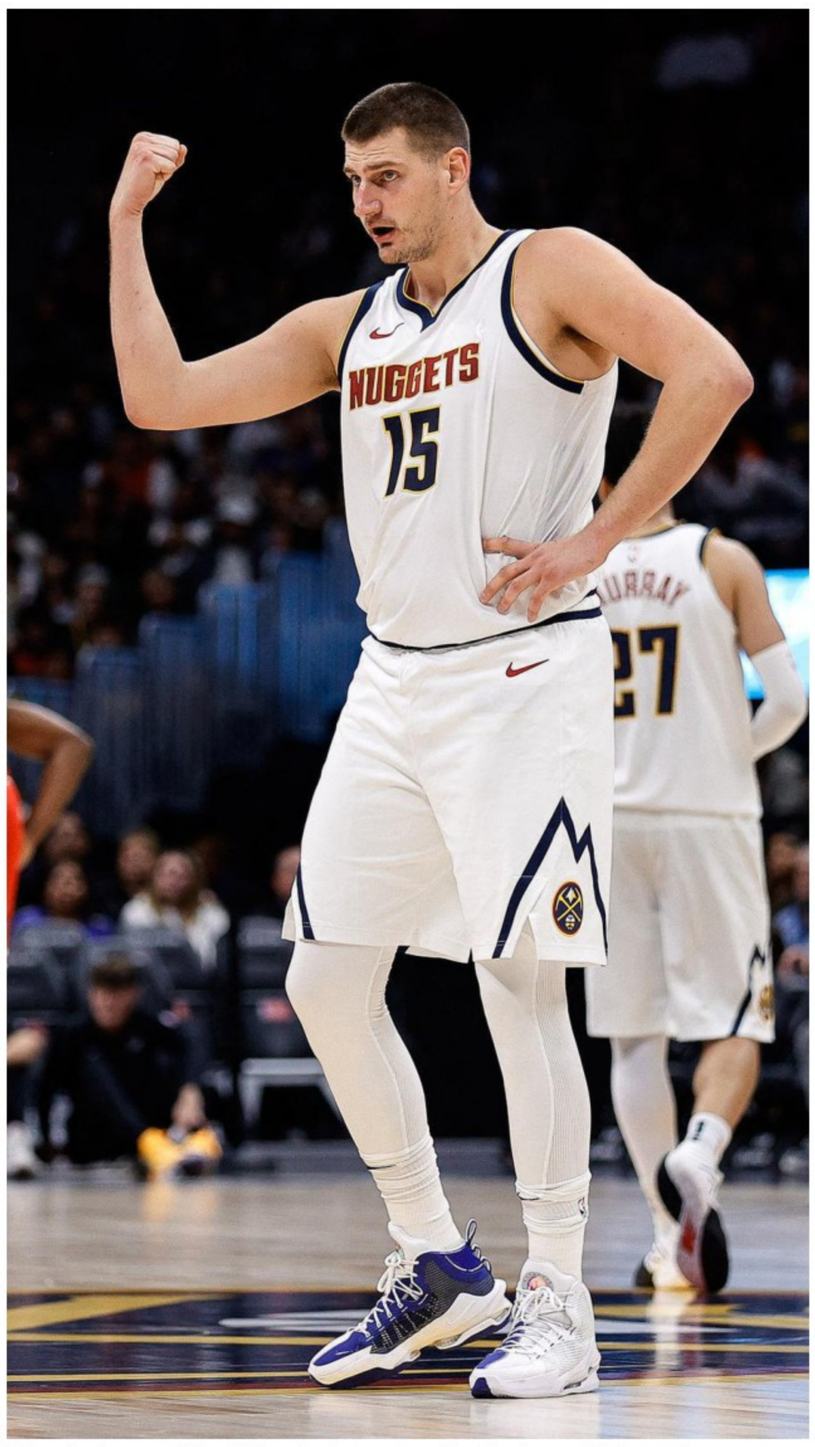
Evergreen stars and emerging talent promise a blockbuster NBA season

The burst in competitiveness at the highest level is a blessing for the league, which expects a significant revenue boost due to new television and digital deals that promise a larger bounty for teams' owners and players alike



Stars galore: Wembanyama and Holmgren are set to make their appearance in an NBA where Jokic rules the roost. Lillard joins a Bucks team headlined by former MVP Antetokounmpo to mount a formidable challenge. AP, REUTERS, GETTY IMAGES

Srinivasan Ramani

In just about a week, the NBA season will get underway after a long and yet another interesting off-season.

Every indication is that 2023-24 will see multiple contenders in line with the trend of the past five years, which has seen a new champion every year: the Toronto Raptors (2018-19), Los Angeles Lakers (2019-20), Milwaukee Bucks (2020-21), Golden State Warriors (2021-22), and Denver Nuggets (2022-23).

This trend has been unlike what we saw in the early to late 2010s, where there were two givens. Superstar LeBron James was almost always in the Finals—he reached eight straight summit clashes –and the Warriors were invariably the favourites to win it all from 2015 to 2019.

Combination of factors

But a combination of factors – an ageing James, Kevin Durant's leaving the Warriors and later the Nets, and the emergence of new superstars in the Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo, the Nuggets' Nikola Jokic, Joel Embiid of the Philadelphia 76ers, and Jayson Tatum from the Boston Celtics, among others – has introduced a level of competition that was last seen before the emergence of the "superteam" concept in the early 2010s.

The NBA today has a landscape where a gutsy team like the Miami Heat remains in contention due to excellent coaching helping a team headlined by the hard-working Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo. Along with the aforementioned teams, there are the Durant and Devin Booker-driven Phoenix Suns, the LeBron and Anthony Davis-helmed Los Angeles Lakers, the perennially injury-riddled but competitive Kawhi Leonard and Paul George-led Los Angeles Clippers, and upstarts in the Memphis Grizzlies, New York Knicks, Sacramento Kings, Dallas Mavericks, and Minnesota Timberwolves who think they can upset the apple cart of the favourites as well.

The burst in competitiveness at the highest level is a blessing for the NBA, which expects a significant revenue boost due to new television and digital deals that promise a larger bounty for teams' owners and players alike.

Impact of luxury tax

The league has strived to maintain its competitive balance despite the skews in market sizes across teams and their geographic locales in the U.S. Measures like teams paying luxury taxes on spends exceeding a salary cap limit were put in place to assure competitive balance.

Teams like the Warriors managed to retain their core despite paying high salaries and consequently a high luxury tax as they got record viewership numbers and spectator visits to their brand new arena. Others, such as the Los Angeles Clippers, also had hefty luxury tax payments, which were made possible because of an uber-rich owner in ex-Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, who was willing to do so.

The league has noted this trend of big market teams being able to treat luxury tax payments as a minor inconvenience and has made changes in the new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) that have made trades more onerous for such teams and payment penalties that are steeper if teams strayed beyond the salary cap.

The Warriors had to, for example, trade up-and-coming guard Jordan Poole for ageing point guard specialist Chris Paul, partially because of the ballooning luxury tax payments going forward.

And the Clippers seem to have finally realised the futility of relying on a high-paying roster without accountability on the spends – there won't be any "load management" for its two superstars, Leonard and George, in 2023-24, and any extension of their contracts will be only possible if they remain in championship contention this year.

Other big-spending teams include the Bucks, the Celtics, and the Suns. Milwaukee and Boston are desperate to contend again after disappointing ends to their 2023 campaigns. The Bucks prised superstar point guard Damian Lillard from the Portland Trail Blazers, the only team he had played for in a stellar 11-year career, in exchange for defensive-minded point guard Jrue Holiday.

Lillard's trade will make the Bucks' owners dip further into their pockets to pay a hefty luxury tax going forward, and the team is out of meaningful draft assets for the medium term.

Lillard offers a stronger pick-and-roll threat in partnership with Antetokounmpo and an offensive repertoire only bettered by Steph Curry as a guard. Lillard's sharpshooting and playmaking catapult the Bucks to become one of the favourites and also push Antetokounmpo to sign a contract extension that will make him remain with the small-market team.

The Celtics meanwhile had to provide the richest contract in NBA history ($304 million over the next five years from 2024) to their shooting guard Jaylen Brown, even though Brown and other superstar Tatum came up short in the last two seasons.

In order to give them a ballast, the Celtics traded for sharpshooting centre Kristaps Porzingis from the Wizards and landed Holiday to form a potent starting five in Holiday, Derrick White, Brown, Tatum, and Porzingis, besides a strong bench that includes veteran centre Al Horford.

The Celtics and the Bucks are now the clear favourites in the East. All eyes will be on the 76ers, who are carrying a disgruntled James Harden and are expected to trade him for a meaningful replacement. Miami Heat returns with a diminished squad but can never be written off.

In the Western Conference, the Nuggets have a head start over the others on account of currently fielding the best player in the NBA – Jokic. His unique style of play – methodical, intellectual, discerning, and skilled to go along with his preternatural passing abilities – has made him an MVP contender without peer except for Embiid, Antetokounmpo, and Curry. With his running-mate Jamal Murray returning successfully from injury and a bevy of role players providing the due thrust, Jokic and his team are primed for yet another championship run.

The Suns have never won a championship in their more than 50 years of existence as a team. After falling short agonisingly in 2021, the team had regressed, but an ownership change, with Matt Ishbia taking over, brought about fresh investments and changes in the team.

The Suns traded for Durant mid-season last year in a desperate manoeuvre, but it was not enough to make a mark in the playoffs. They went all in on a high outlay by trading for guard Bradley Beal from the Wizards and have surrounded the trio of Durant, Booker, and Beal with a good set of role players. Fresh squads take a while to gel, but Durant and Booker have transcendent talent and that should keep the Suns in contention.

Impact of Curry

The Warriors will be in contention as long as Stephen Curry remains fit. The all-time best shooter in the NBA remains a headache for opposing coaches as he retains his ability to fire it accurately from any distance and from any angle on the court with barely any load-up time. His ability to play off-the-ball or as a ball-handling traditional point guard with equal success has meant that the gravity of the court shifts when he plays on it.

His understanding with teammates Draymond Green and Klay Thompson, honed over more than a decade, provides the team with the heft and know-how to tackle any form of opposition, and the addition of the cerebral Chris Paul is bound to extend this advantage for the Warriors. Golden State does not have too many young legs, and that could be its failing, but if it manages to get into the post-season without injury setbacks, the team would be a hard nut to crack for any contender.

James has to fight not just the players guarding him but also 'Father Time' as he enters his 21st season as the oldest player in the current NBA. His partnership with the versatile forward/centre Anthony Davis and intriguing role players such as Austin Reaves was good enough to upend the Warriors in the 2022-23 season. We can expect the Lakers to provide a robust challenge to the Nuggets this season as well.

Arrival of 'Wemby'

The contenders apart, 2023-24 also promises the dawn of a new epoch in the NBA, with several young stars expected to make their mark, none more significant than 7'4" Victor Wembanyama of the San Antonio Spurs.

'Wemby', as he is now affectionately called, brings a combination of skills and physical attributes that has hitherto been rarely seen in the NBA, and his progress into a star will be watched with great interest across the league and by basketball aficionados.

Giving him a tough fight for the rookie of the year (ROY) trophy would be another 7-foot sharp-shooting centre in Oklahoma City Thunder's Chet Holmgren.

The other young talent who shone in the FIBA World Cup earlier this year, such as Frank Wagner of the Orlando Magic and his teammate and reigning ROY Paolo Banchero, are also expected to take the next leap to herald a new corps of NBA stars.

The NBA's new in-season tournament to go along with the regular season – similar to the FA Cup or Copa del Rey in English and Spanish football – is also expected to raise interest among aficionados.

All-in-all, 2023-24 promises a more competitive basketball season, and that could perhaps herald a new era.

The Gist

- Lillard's sharpshooting and playmaking catapult the Bucks to become one of the favourites
- Nuggets have a head-start over the others on account of currently fielding Jokic, the best player in the NBA
- The new in-season tournament is also expected to raise interest among aficionados

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Constable lands in police net for burglary

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Jnana Bharathi police on Tuesday arrested a 30-year-old constable who allegedly used to attend patrolling duty during the day only to identify his targets and commit burglaries after work hours.

Addicted to betting

According to the police, the accused Yallappa Sanna Sharanappa was addicted to online cricket betting and incurred losses to the tune of ₹20 lakh.

To repay the debts, he ganged up with an offender while he was working in Banashankari. The duo attempted to break into a finance company building, but abandoned the plan as the burglary alarm was triggered.

However, the police managed to track down the accused, who confessed that Yallappa was involved, following which he was arrested and suspended from service.

While the police filed a chargesheet pending inquiry, Yallappa got his suspension revoked and was posted to the Devanahalli station, but he continued his criminal activities.

He committed theft at a post office in Chikkajala this August, broke into a house in Chandra Layout in September, and broke into another house in Jnana Bharathi police station limits in October, according to the police.

How he was tracked

Based on a complaint, a police team, led by inspector Ravi M.S. and PSI Bhagavantray Patil, tracked down the accused in Banashankari.

The accused used to tamper with bike registration number plates to hoodwink the police.

Mr. Patil analysed over 50 CCTV camera footage which led him to Yallappa's location.

After he was arrested, he was taken to his native place Ballari to recover the stolen booty, including 4.13 kg of silver articles and 26 grams of gold valuables, which he had pawned and the money used to repay the debts.

Pro-Palestine protesters booked for not taking permission

Police dispersing protesters at M.G. Road on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of the Bahutva Karnataka and other organisations have been booked for staging a protest in support of Palestine on M.G. Road, allegedly without prior permission on Monday.

Police Commissioner B. Dayananda, addressing the media on Tuesday, said that a case has been registered for obstructing footpaths, creating public nuisance, and not obtaining permission to stage the protest.

The demonstrators had gathered to demand that India condemn Israel's attack on Palestine. The Cubbon Park police detained 25 people for protesting without required permission and later released them after booking cases against them.

"Notices will be issued to the organisers seeking an explanation and based on their response, action will be taken," a senior police officer said.

Couple held on murder charge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Mahalakshmi Layout police arrested a woman and her husband for allegedly killing a man over an illicit affair on Monday.

The accused, Rajesh Kumar, a labourer working in RMC Yard, and his wife Neha Kumari, were arrested based on the trail of bloodstains from the body which was dumped in a vacant site next to the house of the accused, a police officer said.

According to the police, Neha Kumari, who works at a private firm, had an affair with Sajjan Singh, a labourer, before marriage and this continued even after marriage. Rajesh Kumar on Sunday caught the duo red-handed.

Following an argument, Rajesh Kumar in a fit of rage stabbed Sajjan Kumar with a knife, killing him on the spot. The duo later carried the body and dumped it at the site, said the police.

The next day, the police recovered the body and began the investigation and tracked down the couple.

Woman's murder: Daughter-in-law, among three, arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rashmi and her friend Akshay and his colleague Purushotham were arrested based on a tip-off from Akshay's roommate Raghavendra

The Byadarahalli police on Monday cracked a murder case and arrested a 30-year-old woman, who allegedly roped in her male friend and his friend to murder her mother-in-law to take control of the house.

The accused, identified as Rashmi and her friend Akshay, 24, who worked in a paint company, and his colleague Purushotham, 33, were arrested based on a tip-off from Akshay's roommate Raghavendra.

According to the police, Rashmi was married to Manjunath, a manager with a transport company, and the couple lived with Lakshmamma, 55.

Hindrance to affair

Rashmi was allegedly unhappy that Lakshmamma used to control the finances of the house and also because she was a hindrance to her affair with Akshay, who was the tenant.

According to the police, Rashmi hatched a plan to eliminate Lakshmamma with the help of Akshay and his friend.

Their plan

As per the plan, Rashmi, on October 5, sedated Laskhmamma and later, the trio strangled her to death before announcing that Lakshmamma died due to cardiac arrest.

She even convinced an unsuspecting Manjunath about her death and the body was cremated, said the police.

The murder came to light when Raghavendra, the roommate of Akshay, accessed the chat history of Rashmi and Akshay by chance and informed Manjunath and the police.

The police picked up Rashmi and Akshay and later Purushotham, who confessed to the crime.

Conceptual video of 'sky deck' in city, posted by DKS, creates a buzz

Areas surrounding Kanteerava Stadium, Vidhana Soudha and Racecourse Road, essentially the centre of the city, are being considered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The interest of Bengalureans was piqued by Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Tuesday after he posted on social media a conceptual video of an observation deck proposed in Bengaluru.

In association with the World Design Organisation, an Austrian company, COOP HIMMELB(L)AU, submitted the conceptual presentation to the Minister on Monday (October 16) of the watch tower, which, if implemented, would be one of the tallest in the country.

Mr. Shivakumar mentioned on X (formerly Twitter) that he had directed the officials concerned to assess the project's financial viability and identify a land parcel of eight to ten acres for it. According to sources, the areas surrounding Kanteerava Stadium, Vidhana Soudha, and Race Course Road, essentially the city's centre, are being considered.

Vibrant Bengaluru

The idea of a sky deck is an extension of "Brand Bengaluru" with an aim to provide a view of the entire city along with recreational facilities like restaurants.

The Vibrant Bengaluru report, which was submitted by a 10-member committee in September, had pitched the idea of a landmark watch tower along the lines of the Eiffel Tower in Paris and the Statue of Liberty in New York.

An artist's impression of the proposed watch tower in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The proposal submitted to Mr. Shivakumar stated, "The system of the structure is inspired by the intricate algorithms governing the natural growth of the majestic Banyan (Big Banyan) tree's sprawling branches."

The top structure will take its inspiration from a flower in bloom.

The proposed tower will have a sky deck, roller coaster station, restaurants, and an exhibition centre, among other amenities.

'Footpath first'

Soon after the conceptual video was posted, many on social media showed their excitement and called it a beautiful and futuristic concept. Kishore. M N. said, "Let's see if such mega ideas ever happen in our city or not..!! But a beautiful concept..!!"

However, others sought to focus on more pressing issues before moving on to such projects. Ravindra Konapur asked, "What would be the cost of this? Is this to see potholes from there or see a great view of garbage?" Pravar added, "*Sir, please neevu footpath maadi* (please ready the footpaths)."

Power shutdown today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be disruption in the power supply on Wednesday between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the areas serviced from 66/11 kV BMTC MUSS owing to quarterly maintenance works.

The areas affected are, Lavelle Road, Vittal Mallya Road, Wilson Garden, Hombegowda Nagar, Sampangi Nagara, J.C. Road, Shanti Nagar, BTS Road, Sudhamanagara, K.H. Road, Subbaiah Circle, Siddaiah Road, Lalbagh Road, and surrounding areas.

Power supply will also be affected on the day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the areas serviced from 66/11 kV St. John Wood sub station.

The areas affected are: BTM 1st Stage, Gurappanna Palya, Jai Bheem Nagar, Chocolate Factory Road, Old Madiwala, BTM Layout, Bismilah Nagar, Bharathi Layout, Koramangala 2nd Block, Kudremukh Colony, Siddartha Colony, Tavarekere, S.G. Palya, Maruthinagar, Venkateshwara College Road, Brundavana Nagar and surrounding areas.

Two arrested on the charge of killing factory employee

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Madanayakanahalli police on Tuesday cracked a murder case and arrested a factory employee and his friend for the alleged abduction and murder of a colleague after a row over a girl.

The accused, Pratap, 23, and his associate Manjunath, 22, were arrested based on CCTV camera footage recovered from Nagasandra metro station, from where the duo had forcibly taken the victim on their bike on the pretext of talking, said the police.

The deceased was identified as Lokesh from Davangere. He had completed a diploma course and joined a factory in Peenya and met a girl working in the same factory and soon, they become close, said the police.

The girl was the childhood friend of Pratap and both were in a relationship. When Pratap got to know that Lokesh was getting close to her, the duo had a fight and Pratap warned him to stay away.

The police said that on October 5, when Lokesh was returning home from work, Pratap and Manjunath followed him on their bike and confronted him near the Nagasandra metro station. The duo forced Lokesh to get on the bike on the pretext of talking.

The accused took Lokesh to the outskirts of the city and killed him before returning home, said the police.

When Lokesh did not return home even after two days, his uncle filed a missing complaint with the Bagalagunte police and provided a physical description of Lokesh.

Meanwhile, the Madanayakanahalli police recovered a highly decomposed body in Kukkanahalli village. The police summoned Lokesh's uncle to verify the body.

The police initiated an investigation into Lokesh's background and found that he had a fight with Pratap and was last seen at the station. The police recovered the CCTV camera footage and found that Lokesh was forcibly taken by Pratap and his friend.

Based on this, Pratap was picked up for questioning and he confessed to the crime.

Water adalat tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) will hold a water adalat on Thursday between 9.30 a.m and 11 a.m. in various places across the city to settle problems related to water billing, delays in providing water supply and sanitary connections, delay in converting from domestic connection to non-domestic connection.

BWSSB, in a release said the adalat will be held in North West-2, North West 4, Central-1-2, North East 2, North 1-2, North 2-2, South 1-2, South 2-2, South West 2, South West 5, East 1-3, and East 22-3 sub divisions.

The public may contact the helpline number 1916. Complaints can also be filed through WhatsApp at 8762228888.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (October 18, Wednesday), the following articles are available:

- The allegations on Adani coal imports bit.ly/adanicoalft
- Undervaluing faculty fellowships is bad for scientists, and science bit.ly/facultyfellowships

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1. The Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle, Cuttack on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites on Percentage rate basis bid in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Building works as mentioned below.
2. No. of work : 06 Nos.
3. Nature of work : Building
4. Class of contractor : 'B', 'A' & Special Class
5. Tender Paper Cost : Rs.10000/- (Online)
6. Available of bid document in the web site : From 30.10.2023 to 17.30 Hours of 13.11.2023
7. Date of opening of bid : Dt. 14.11.2023 at 11.00 Hours.
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said web site.

Sd/- P.K.Rath

Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle

B-1097: OIPR-34012/11/0034/2324

BUSINESS CONNECT A Business Initiative

C. Krishniah Chetty Group Of Jewellers unveiled *The Durbar Assemblage

Recently 150 Year C. Krishniah Chetty Group Of Jewellers unveiled *The Durbar Assemblage* an exquisite collection of meticulously designed and handcrafted jewellery that pays a reverent tribute to the resplendent royal legacy and opulent heritage of Mysore Palace. There couldn't be an apt time than the Dussehra Festival for the launch. Princess Darshika Kumari and Princess Kamakshi Devi Wadiyar Unveiled and launched The Durbar Collection at The Crystal Museum Salon, CKC Touchstone, Main Guard Cross Road. "The Durbar Collection," an exquisite line of handcrafted jewellery by the CKC, pays homage to Mysore's opulent royal residence and rich heritage. Complementing "The Durbar Collection" is the "Mysore Kasu Collection," inspired by the coins minted during the Wodeyar dynasty's reign. CKC craftsmen have meticulously crafted each piece, incorporating the regal essence of Mysore's heritage. "The Durbar Collection" and "Mysore Kasu Collection" cater to a diverse range of style preferences. With each piece, you carry a piece of history, a reflection of Maharaja Krishna Raja Wodeyar IV's legacy, and the enduring allure of Mysore. Embrace the essence of Mysore-inspired jewellery and infuse your wardrobe with timeless elegance.

Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) celebrated World Standards day, 2023

World Standards day, 2023 is celebrated by (BIS) as Manak Mahotsava with their stakeholders which is a means of paying tribute to the collaborative efforts of the experts who develops the technical agreements that are published as Standards. The goal of World Standards Day is to raise awareness of the importance of global standardization to the world economy and to promote its role in helping meet the needs of business, industry, government, and consumers worldwide. It is celebrated with the theme SHARED VISION FOR A BETTER WORLD – INCORPORATING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 3 – GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING. A series of activities are conducted. The event was graced by H'ble Member of Legislative Assembly, Dr C N Ashwath Narayanan, PadmaShri Dr Prahalada Rama Rao, Shri Gyanendra Kumar, IAS and Shri Sudhakar S, Outstanding Scientist, ISRO and participated by about 200 stakeholders. BIS also felicitated the stakeholders. The event ended with vote of thanks to all the Guests, speakers and the participants.

HAL Hands Over LCA Tejas Twin Seater to Indian Air Force in Presence of Rakha Rajya Mantri

It is a huge boost to self-reliance, said Mr. Ajay Bhatt minister in his address to the packed audience. "I am proud to be part of this historic occasion and salute the spirit of HAL which has been spearheading Swadeshi manufacturing in defence", he said. He unveiled the twin seater LCA. "In all, the development of LCA Tejas has also brought about a shift in our approach to defence procurement. It has demonstrated that India has the talent, knowledge and capability to design, develop and manufacture world-class fighters", he added. Speaking on the occasion, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari said that IAF would be going forward to procure 97 more LCAs and with this it will have 220 LCAs in its inventory. Mr. C B Ananthakrishnan, CMD (Addl. Charge), HAL said that the company is committed to deliver all the twin seater aircraft pertaining to IOC and FOC contract to IAF in the current financial year. The Release to Service Document (RSD) and the Signalling out Certificate (SOC) were also handed over during the event.

Undervaluing faculty fellowships is bad for scientists, and science

Faculty members appointed on fellowships often face challenges in obtaining office and lab space and accessing research facilities at the host institute; in spite of a rigorous selection process and funding, scientists on fellowships have also reported being treated as 'second class' faculty members

Karishma Kaushik

Advanced scientific research and education in India is driven mostly by government-supported institutes such as the IITs, the IISERs, and Central and State universities. Along with private universities, they constitute India's academic science ecosystem. At these institutes, faculty members conduct research in independently-led groups and teach courses for various academic programmes.

Independent faculty members are usually scientists with PhDs and expertise, including several years of postdoctoral training, in a specific domain. After their doctoral education and training, they can apply to be recruited at institutes and universities. Regular faculty appointments are typically continuous up to the age of retirement, with a salary paid by the institute (usually from government allocations) and possibly a start-up or annual research fund. However, faculty members are also expected to secure funding via external programmes and schemes.

Preferences for funded scientists

External funding schemes, typically multi-year government-funded grants and fellowships, provide research funds and could also support salary costs for a fixed number of years. Around the world, institutes and universities prize scientists with independent research funding and salary support, and vie for tenure-track individuals with self-earned grants or fellowships.

This is in part due to a competitive selection process, often involving multi-step applications and interviews. The institute also benefits from the funds and the new members' teaching contributions during the specified period, after which it evaluates them for tenure and/or promotion.

In the last two decades, India has also developed structured fellowships to help scientists establish research programmes at institutes in the country. These government-funded fellowships provide for a salary and annual research funds for at least five years (some programmes offer extensions). Faculty members can seek regular positions at any time during or after the fellowship period, depending on eligibility and available positions, at the host or another institute. Some fellowship programmes also allow fellows to avail only funds for research once they have secured a regular position.

Based on programme award announcements, institutes and universities across India host around 200 new faculty members funded on fellowships each year, of which a large segment includes those without regular positions.

According to the Ministry of Education, nearly 40% of the teaching posts at IITs and more than 25% of sanctioned posts at Central universities are vacant. REPRESENTATIVE IMAGE

Struggling programme

Even after several years, faculty fellowship programmes in India are struggling to find a place within the mainstream scientific enterprise. First, faculty members appointed on fellowships often face challenges in obtaining office and laboratory space and access to common research facilities at the host institute – even though the institute is required to provide these facilities. Second, in spite of a rigorous selection process and access to funds, scientists on fellowships have reported being treated as 'second class' faculty members at the host institute, their tenure-based fellowships relegating them to a sub-par status vis-à-vis the permanent faculty.

Finally, several institutes - including autonomous institutes funded by the Departments of Science & Technology (DST) and of Biotechnology (DBT) - have altogether stopped hosting faculty members on short-term fellowships, citing concerns with the uncertainty or inability to offer regular positions after the fellowship ends. This undervaluing of faculty fellowships overlooks the pros of a longer-term vision for Indian science.

Government-funded scientific institutions in India face crippling challenges related to faculty recruitment, with inordinate delays, age cut-offs, and lack of qualified candidates. As a result, several science departments have reported vacant positions even as they deal with increasing student numbers and demand for scientific output.

Serious challenges

According to the Ministry of Education, nearly 40% of the teaching posts at IITs (4,502 out of 11,170) and more than 25% of sanctioned posts at Central universities (6,180 out of 18,956) are vacant. At the same time, close to 6,000 students complete their PhDs in India every year, and many seek - unsuccessfully - academic faculty positions. In spite of repeatedly acknowledging the problem, science departments face serious challenges related to approvals and implementation of the recruitment process.

In this context, faculty fellowships present an opportunity for scientists to engage with institutes under mutually beneficial terms. During their tenure, faculty fellows develop a research programme at the institute, with tangible outcomes such as research papers and patents, and also teach students and mentor researchers. For the host institute, these benefits often come at little cost, beyond a term-based appointment and access to research facilities.

As India aims to expand its science and technology footprint, faculty fellowships serve as a means to attract international scientific talent while retaining trained scientists in the country. The Ramalingaswami and Ramanujan Fellowships by the DBT and DST allow postdoctoral scientists with extensive international expertise and training to return to India and start their own research groups.

Newly-minted PhD researchers in India also have incentives to embark on research and teaching careers in the DST-INSPIRE and DBT/India Alliance early-career fellowships. So faculty fellowships are a means to change India's science brain-drain to a brain circulation and address the problem at a more fundamental level by retaining skilled researchers.

Finally, while the fellowships aim to facilitate independent research careers in institutes across India, some fellows often diversify their careers after it concludes. Some examples include undergraduate education, entrepreneurship, and science communication. Scientists with diverse and non-linear career paths bring multiple skills and experiences to the larger scientific enterprise and also facilitate engagement and interactions across academic and non-academic sectors.

Need for conducive environment

For all these reasons, faculty fellowship programmes in India should be viewed as robust and diverse sources of research expertise and talent for the science ecosystem. Institutes need to adopt an approach that supports faculty fellowships and provide fellows a conducive environment to start and build successful research and teaching programmes.

On the other side, faculty fellows could view the fellowship period as a means to better understand professional opportunities in, and diverse ways of contributing to, the scientific enterprise in India.

In a space with ambitious targets for science as well as considerable on-ground challenges, successful faculty fellowship programs invigorate research, teaching, and innovation.

(Karishma Kaushik is the Executive Director of IndiaBioscience.)

THE GIST

- In the last two decades, India has developed structured fellowships to help scientists establish research programmes at institutes in the country
- Even after several years, faculty fellowship programmes in India are struggling to find a place within the mainstream scientific enterprise
- Government-funded scientific institutions in India face crippling challenges related to faculty recruitment, with inordinate delays, age cut-offs, and lack of qualified candidates
- As India aims to expand its science and technology footprint, faculty fellowships serve as a means to attract international scientific talent while retaining trained scientists in the country

BIG SHOT

An archaeology student excavates a burial mound in Leuhan, western France, on October 11. This mound dating from the ancient Bronze age was discovered in 1900 by French archeologist Paul du Chatellier. At this site, du Chatellier also found a carved granite slab that could be the oldest map in Europe. The searches are conducted to understand the architecture of the tumulus and the way it was built. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

Pain as a warning system

Q: What is pain?

A: Pain is difficult to define as it is subjective and psychological. Probably the best definition is that it is an unpleasant experience associated with tissue damage. Pain is more complex than other sensory systems such as vision or hearing as it involves transfer of sensory information to the nervous system but produces suffering which leads to aversive corrective behaviour, like withdrawing from harmful agents. Thus it serves as a useful warning system.

Pain receptors in the skin and other tissues of our body are nerve terminals which are triggered by a chemical stimulus when a potential damage occurs. Acute pain often has simple and effective treatment regimes. However, chronic pain rarely has simple solutions as it is not fully understood. It is inevitably accompanied by many psychological factors such as depression, anxiety and personal environmental interactions.

An indirect or inferential measurement of some one's pain may be made by means of so-called pain thresholds. There are many methods available for measuring this threshold which however are open to criticism.

A popular method is to employ a dolorimeter, which uses a heat source operated by a timing mechanism. An even safer device is a pressure algometer, a rod with a flat end loaded against a calibrated spring. Pressure applied on a flat bony surface (for example, the shin) is increased steadily until pain is reported.

Pain receptors are nerve terminals which are triggered by a chemical stimulus. ISTOCKPHOTO

There are a number of reports of people without the ability to feel pain at all, or in some cases very little. They are at a greater risk of suffering and their life expectancy is shorter than average.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
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with the subject 'Daily page'

Digitise all property records, says High Court

Court says access to all digitised documents should be given to those officers who are empowered by law to adjudicate complaints related to properties

The BBMP has to formulate a mechanism for making available all property documents. FILE PHOTO

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Chief Commissioner of the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) to digitise documents of all types of properties, including old records, and give access to all the digitised documents to the officers who are empowered by law to adjudicate the complaints related to the properties.

The BBMP has to formulate a mechanism for making available the sanctioned plans, katha certificates, tax paid receipts, self-assessment forms etc. of all properties in the digital format to all officers, who are authorised to take penal action under the BBMP Act, the court said, while clarifying that such access should be only through user credentials based on user name and password, so that the records are not available to any third parties.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued the directions on a petition filed by Aslama Pasha, questioning an order passed against him in relation to the construction of a building on the grounds that the petitioner had failed to produce the sanctioned plan.

The petitioner had claimed that there existed a sanctioned plan but there was a delay in its production before the BBMP authorities.

Single entity

The court said that though different departments of the BBMP deal with different aspects, the civic body is one single entity comprising all those departments, and hence access to all the documents should be available to all authorised officers.

When the BBMP itself possesses the documents in its custody, it cannot call upon the citizen to furnish such documents, and cannot draw any adverse inference for non-production as was done in the present case, the court said, while observing that if the documents were not produced nothing prevented the BBMP officials from examining its own records.

The court made it clear that one department of the BBMP cannot claim that it does not possess certain documents related to a property as they were issued by another department.

Map and tag documents

As there could be documents relating to a particular property available with different departments of the State government, the BBMP and the e-Governance Department of the government will have to map and tag all such documents with the BBMP's property data, the court added.

Takes charge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

P. Sivakumar assumed office as the new member secretary, Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, at Bengaluru, on Monday. He succeeds Rajit Ranjan Okhandiar. Mr. Sivakumar will hold the office for five years. A 2000 batch of the Indian Forest Service Officer of the Assam-Meghalaya Cadre, Mr. Sivakumar has been instrumental in revitalizing the Kaziranga National Park.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 18		
RISE	06:10	SET 17:59
RISE	09:05	SET 20:40
THURSDAY, OCT. 19		
RISE	06:10	SET 17:59
RISE	10:04	SET 21:35
FRIDAY, OCT. 20		
RISE	06:10	SET 17:58
RISE	11:05	SET 22:34

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	24
Mysuru	32	23
Bengaluru	31	21

Bengaluru Today
31°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be little warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C A dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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Jain hospital doctors complete 750 spine surgeries

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bhagwan Mahaveer Jain Hospital, on the occasion of World Spine Day, held a special event to celebrate the achievements of doctors of the Department of Spine and Joint Surgery on Monday.

The occasion marked the celebration of 750 successful scoliosis surgeries by the hospital.

The event was celebrated to acknowledge the patients, their families, and the medical professionals who have contributed to the success.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao, who was the chief guest, said, "Reaching this milestone is a reflection of the hospital's relentless pursuit of excellence in spinal surgeries. Each surgery represents the life of patients transformed from suffering to having overcome the limitations."

Airline promises fair probe after passenger's claim of harassment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Akasa Air has reached out to a 20-year-old student, who alleged that an off-duty pilot belonging to the airline harassed her on board a Bengaluru-Pune flight earlier this month, and has assured her of concluding the investigation in a fair manner on priority.

On October 3, the complainant took to X (formerly Twitter) and alleged that she was offered alcohol and harassed by a pilot (non-flying captain).

A series of messages were posted on X (formerly Twitter) by the student on the incident of "excruciatingly bad intrusion into privacy."

Following the posts, the airline said that it had tried to reach out to the passenger but could not.

"A passenger who travelled on Akasa Air QP1317 from Bengaluru to Pune on 1 October 2023 shared feedback on her interaction on board with a co-passenger (who was a member of our staff, not on duty at the time). As soon as we received the feedback, we immediately reached out to the passenger to assist and get more details to enable us to do a fair investigation. In spite of multiple attempts by our senior management to reach the passenger, we could not make contact initially," said an Akasa Air spokesperson.

However, on Tuesday the airline's legal and customer experience team were able to get in touch with the complainant.

"We have now been able to complete the conversations with the complainant and are committed to conclude the investigation in a fair manner and on priority. At Akasa Air, we follow a zero-tolerance policy towards our code of conduct and passengers' safety, privacy and comfort are of utmost priority," the spokesperson added.

Education has moved out of the classroom: Nikhil Kamath

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The world is competitive and education has moved out of the classroom, said Nikhil Kamath, co-founder of financial services company Zerodha.

Delivering the convocation address at the 58th annual convocation of Bangalore University (BU) on Tuesday, he said: "I haven't done too much traditional education. But education has moved out of the classroom and so much is available online today for one to read and learn."

"I had unconventional education by virtue of which I chose to educate myself. It was not through books given to me through syllabus or structured education, but when you go down the path of curiosity; curiosity around learning, not just your subject, but being curious about changes around the world, both in technology and academia is important. There is so much out there available for free today. So much that could teach us and so much that will make us better equipped to get a job and to start a career," the entrepreneur added.

The former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda receiving an honorary doctorate from Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot during the 58th convocation of Bangalore University on Tuesday. ANI

Former Prime Minster H.D. Deve Gowda, who was given an honorary doctorate, stressed on the need for moral education for school and college students.

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman S. Somanath, who was also conferred an honorary doctorate, was not present.

As many as 299 gold medals and 113 cash prizes were awarded to 193 students, and 204 PhDs were conferred.

As many as 28,871 students received various degrees, of which 20,056 obtained distinction, 4,807 first class, 874 passed with second class, and 137 with pass class.

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IIHR seminar aims to popularise neglected edible plant species

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The present-day global agricultural and horticultural sectors depend on less than 100 plant species to provide food and nutrition to over 90% of the population, though there are more than 12,500 edible plant species in the world.

Of the 12,500 species, about 7,000 have been used to a significant extent by humans at some point in time. But even they have remained neglected. The dire need to take care of the nutritional security and also the economic importance of horticultural crops has now made scientists explore the possibility of popularising some of these neglected edible plant species.

The Hessarghatta-based Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), which is the mainstay in terms of the country's horticultural research, has now taken the initiative of exploring the possibility of popularising some of these exotic and neglected varieties among farmers by holding an international seminar on "Exotic and Underutilised Horticultural Crops: Priorities and Emerging Trends"

The seminar, which is being organised in collaboration with the Society for Promotion of Horticulture under the patronage of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, also provides an opportunity for researchers, teachers, extension workers, policy makers, traders, and entrepreneurs to discuss various strategies to achieve nutritional security and better environmental sustainability.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot, who inaugurated the seminar, said the production of horticultural crops is estimated to have increased 14-fold from 25 million tonnes in 1950-51 to around 350 million tonnes at present, which is more than the foodgrain production.

Although horticultural crops cover only 18% of the area, this sector contributes about 35% to the agricultural gross domestic product.

Sanjay Kumar Singh, Director, ICAR-IIHR, Bengaluru, briefed about the activities and achievements of the institute.

SRM
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CALL FOR Ph.D. ADMISSIONS
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Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to full-time Ph.D. program under "Visvesvaraya Ph.D. Scheme" for Electronics and IT (Phase II) of MeitY, GoI.
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Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The coal exported to neighbouring countries in FY23

1.16 million tonnes (MT). India exported 0.833 MT of coal to Nepal, 0.245 MT to Bangladesh, 0.053 MT to Bhutan and 0.032 MT to others, according to the latest Provisional Coal Statistics for FY23. PTI

OBC reservation in Congress's Madhya Pradesh manifesto

27 in percentage. The Congress released the party's manifesto for the November 17 Assembly polls in Madhya Pradesh where it promised to conduct a caste survey if voted to power. PTI

The amount recovered in election related seizures in Telangana

100 in ₹ crore. A total of ₹58.96 crore in cash, 64.2 kg gold, 400 kg silver, a 42.203 carat diamond, liquor worth over ₹6.64 crore, and other items were seized. PTI

The decline in Karnataka's sugar output in 2023-24

42 in %. Sugar production of Karnataka, the country's third largest producer, is estimated to fall to 34.51 lakh tonnes in the 2023-24 sugar season, due to lower cane output and less sugar recovery. PTI

The total strength of the Olympic committee

107 Eight new members were elected to the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Four among the eight were women. PTI

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The allegations on Adani coal imports

What has emerged out of the *Financial Times* report? How was the conglomerate allegedly manipulating the price of coal imports? What connection does this have with Chang Chung-Ling? How has the Adani Group responded to the accusations?

EXPLAINER

Saptaparno Ghosh

The story so far:

In a recent report, the *Financial Times* stated that the Adani Group appeared to have imported billions of dollars of coal at prices above their market value. The reportage was based on an examination of 30 shipments of the commodity from Indonesia to India, over 32 months between 2019 and 2021. It stated that the data affirmed long-standing allegations (against the company) of making consumers and businesses overpay for electricity. The Adani Group has denied the allegations.

What did the report say?

The allegations concern the group's Integrated Resource Management (IRM) business. A credit report in March this year held it as the country's largest importer of thermal coal catering to the requirements of its clients in both private and public sector undertakings (PSUs).

According to *FT,* the observed prices mentioned in the import records, of the examined shipments, were far higher than those in corresponding export declarations. For example, bulk carrier DL Acacia transported 74,820 tonnes of coal in January 2019. Export records mention the price of the commodity as $1.9 million plus $42,000 for shipping and insurance. However, upon arrival at India's Mundra port in Gujarat (run by the conglomerate) the declared import value was escalated to $4.3 million. Separately, as per Indonesian declarations, the 30 sailings are said to have transported 3.1 million tonnes of coal during the mentioned period valued at $139 million, excluding another $3.1 million in shipping and insurance costs (thus, totalling about $142 million). However, the price declared to custom officers in India was $215 million. This amounted to a $73 million profit, which, as per *FT*, was "far in excess of plausible shipping costs".

In the hot seat: Adani Power's 4,620 megawatt coal-based plant in Mundra, Gujarat. PTI

Coal trading largely follows a "high volume competitive business with profit margins in the low single digits" paradigm. Additionally, considering the essential nature of the commodity, stringent government regulations too become necessary. Hence, it becomes imperative that miners consider these factors when pricing their product to make it worthwhile for the traders to derive something. In a related context, an expert in Indonesian trade told the publication that anything more than a couple of dollars above the market price raises eyebrows.

How was this alleged process run?

The investigative trail centres around three "middlemen", or offshore entities, that supplied the group with coal and are said to have made "more substantial amounts". These include Hi Lingos in Taipei, Taurus Commodities General Trading in Dubai and Pan Asian Tradelink in Singapore. Import data since July 2021 indicated that the conglomerate paid a total of $4.8 billion to the entities for the coal sourced - a substantial premium to market prices. For further perspective, 73 million tonnes of coal were imported by Adani Enterprises (in 2,000 shipments) between September 2021 and July 2023. Of the 73 million imported, 42.2 million tonnes were supplied by its own operations at an average (declared) price of $130 per tonne, while the average price for the three middlemen stood at $155 per tonne. Separately, imports from Hi Lingos were declared at $149 per tonne, Taurus at $154.43 and Pan Asia at $168.58.

FT observed Hi Lingos was owned by Taiwanese businessman, Chang Chung-Ling. He is believed to have been secretly one of the largest shareholders in three-listed Adani companies between 2013 to at least early 2017. Pan Asia Tradelink, with the highest premium, was observed to not have any other Indian customer, except for Adani Power.

What have been the reactions?

The Adani group's rebuttal focuses on two points. The first of it is about the publication basing its story on the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence's March 2016 circular. For perspective, the notice spoke of "certain importers of Indonesian Coal were artificially inflating its import value as compared to the actual value". While the circular also names 40 private power generators including Reliance Infra, JSW Steels and Essar among others, the Adani group has been singled out, it argues. The conglomerate argued that the show-cause notice to one of the 40 importers mentioned in the circular had been quashed by the Customs Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal (CESTAT). "Further, the DRI's appeal was dismissed as withdrawn by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 24 January 2023 with the observation that 'we appreciate the stand taken by the Government in not entering into futile litigation'," it noted.

Secondly, the conglomerate alleged the reportage ignored that coal procurement in India was done on long-term supply basis through an "open, transparent, global bidding process thereby eliminating any possibility of price manipulation". It explained that tariffs are fixed by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission after "evaluating all variables and in consultations with power generator, distributor and retail consumers". Thus, introducing multiple opportunities for determining aspects related to tariffs, such as the import value of coal. To this effect, the group contends, "the question of over invoicing or price manipulation does not arise."

THE GIST

In a recent report, the *Financial Times* stated that the Adani Group appeared to have imported billions of dollars of coal at prices above their market value.

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How synergistic barriers are affecting progress on SDGs

Synergistic barriers have come to the fore as the world is set to achieve only 15% of the 169 targets

ANALYSIS

Leena Srivastava

Lamenting the lack of progress on various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), world leaders at the SDG Summit in New York on September 18 and 19, once again reaffirmed their shared commitment to eradicate poverty and end hunger. They recognised that the world was on track to meet only 15% of its 169 targets that make up the 17 goals and have committed to an SDG stimulus of $500 billion annually.

While this political declaration needs to be welcomed as a renewed commitment to Agenda 2030, there is little to inspire confidence that there will be greater progress. A 2023 report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development estimated the investment gap in SDGs in developing countries to be greater than $4 trillion. Of this, nearly $2 trillion needs to be directed towards energy transition alone. These staggering figures, representing the estimated sum of investment required by specialised agencies responsible for tracking each SDG, seem unachievable.

Lack of synergistic action

A fundamental statement in the Agenda 2030 document detailing the SDGs, recognises the indivisible and integrated nature of the 17 SDGs and their contribution to the three pillars of sustainable development. A lot of academic literature has also focussed on the 'synergies' and 'trade-offs' that exist in the pursuit of specific SDGs. One such paper, published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* on October 30, 2019, identified five types of (dis)synergies that can be estimated along the value chain of an SDG intervention – those arising from resource allocations; creation of enabling environments; co-benefits; cost-effectiveness; and saturation limits.

A recently launched UN Expert Group Report, entitled 'Synergy Solutions for a World in Crisis: Tackling Climate and SDG Action Together', also laments the lack of synergistic action in the face of significant (modelled) evidence.

Barrier for small-scale applications

This said, policymaking processes are generally robust, with a clear view on synergistic outcomes, especially when multi-stakeholder approaches to policymaking are practised. For example, in India, the push for renewable energy started with both energy security and air pollution in focus, and received an impetus with climate commitments. However, it hasn't been able to leverage the health benefits arising from lower air pollution to strengthen arguments for greater incentives for renewables. At the same time, the ambitious renewable energy targets themselves became a barrier for small scale applications due to a misalignment of deliverables. While the energy departments had targets in gigawatts, primary health centres had needs in kilowatts, leading to their neglect in energisation, even though the health outcomes could have been significant.

Therefore, simply recognising interlinks without a robust analysis and understanding of institutional barriers won't yield the outcomes India desires. As such, there is merit in both assessing as well as addressing barriers identified in the UN report in our national context. This in turn should prompt the country to strengthen the environment for synergistic action, and make transparent both the opportunities and limits to synergies arising from SDG interventions.

Every new investment we initiate today leading to a high-carbon outcome will likely result in higher dis-synergies or trade-offs in our ability to achieve our energy and climate goals. Establishing the domestic energy resources we have for reasons of enhancing resilience to shocks is a worthwhile goal but exploiting those resources without a full cost estimation - including weighing India's own vulnerability to climate-change impacts - of alternative pathways with their synergistic opportunities is detrimental to both national and global efforts. On the other hand, investing in clean energy options could have a significant synergistic impact on air pollution and human health, increasing the attractiveness of such interventions.

Leena Srivastava is Director, Ashoka Centre for a People-centric Energy Transition, Ashoka University

THE GIST

Lamenting the lack of progress on various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), world leaders at the SDG Summit once again reaffirmed their shared commitment to eradicate poverty and end hunger.

Policymaking processes are generally robust, with a clear view on synergistic outcomes, especially when multi-stakeholder approaches to policymaking are practised.

However, simply recognising interlinks without a robust analysis and understanding of institutional barriers won't yield the outcomes countries desire.

PUBLIC NOTICE

General Public is hereby informed that, our Client is intending to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned below from its Owner N.Shantharam, S/o late K.V.Narayanappa, No.86, 1st Main, Kundalahalli, Bangalore represented by his GPA holder Konda Siddaiah @ Shiva Kumar, S/o Konda Subbaiah, No.C-102, 1st Floor, Corona Wing, Brigade Gateway Apartment, Malleswaram West Bangalore. It is represented by the Owner that, the Schedule Property was originally acquired by Era Kadharappa and upon his death, by virtue of Release/Relinquishment Deeds dated 04.07.2020 registered as Document No.BNS-1-03111-2020-21 and Document No.BNS-1-03113-2020-21, Book 1, CD No.BNSD1054 in the Office of the Senior Sub Registrar, Banasawadi Bangalore, he became the absolute owner in possession of the Schedule Property. It is represented further by the Owner that he has clear, valid and marketable title to the Schedule Property and it is free from all encumbrances.

If any person/s who claim/s any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in respect of Schedule Property and/or any objections of any nature to the transaction should lodge such claims and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within Seven days hereof, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and our Client would proceed to complete the transaction with aforesaid Owner subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Agricultural land in Sy.No.58/1 measuring 2 acre 33 guntas situated at Kundalahalli Village, KR Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk (earlier Bangalore South Taluk) and bounded on the: East By :Property in Sy No.58/2, West By :Rayan School, North By: Property in Sy No.57, South By Property in Sy No.58/3.

ADINATH NARDE, Adinath Narde and Revathy Associates, Advocates, No.101, First Floor, "The Presidency", Old No. 1, New No.82, St. Mark's Road, Bangalore - 01
Bangalore. Tel : 080-22247651/080-22104246
17.10.2023 Mob: +91 9448385586

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KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through kppp portal)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.

Last date for submission of bid: **15.11.2023 upto 4.00 p.m.**

Sl. No.	Name of Work
1.	**Construction of academic block and construction of additional classroom on existing block at Maharani arts college for women, JBL road, Mysuru district Under SCP/TSP 2022-23 Scheme.** Tender Reference Number: KHB/2023-24/BD/work_indent 39 & IFT No.50/2023-24 Date: 13.10.2023, Amount put to tender **Rs.13,33,61,064/-.**

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: **Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru, Telephone No. 080-22273511 / 080-22100077 web site: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** **Sd/- Executive Engineer,**
DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO1738/23-24 Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(BALLARI THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement portal)

Tenders are invited through e-Procurement Portal (Website URL: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**) for (1) No.: EE(OLA)C/BTPS/IFST/167, dated: 10.10.2023 for **"Design, Modification, Manufacturing, supplying and erecting PVC fills and its supporting structure of NDCT of Unit No. 3".** (2) No.: KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT392/CALL-3, dated: 10.10.2023 for **"Dismantling & shifting of RBLLC Pump Sets with allied valves pipe lines and closing underground 350NB discharge MS pipe at RBLLC Pumps, Kampli".** (3) No.: KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT409/CALL-3, dated: 10.10.2023 for **"Inspection, Testing & Certification of Lifts (Form 31) installed at BTPS - for a period of two years".** (4) No.: KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT624/CALL-2, dated: 11.10.2023 for **"Supply, Installation and calibration of Portable Corrosion meter/Corrator with MS and SS probes for all the 3 Units".** (5) No.: KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_INDENT683/CALL-2, dated: 11.10.2023 for **"Providing, commissioning and testing of two numbers of locomotive wheel set trolley".** Last date & time for submission of tenders: **for Sl. No. 1 & 5: 30.10.2023 up to 17.00 hrs., for Sl. No. 2: 27.10.2023 up to 17.30 hrs., for Sl. No. 3: 04.11.2023 up to 17.00 hrs., for Sl. No. 4: 25.10.2023 up to 15.00 hrs.** Further details can be had from the **for Sl. No. 1:** Executive Engineer (OLA)C, Mobile: 9448290774, **for Sl. No. 2 & 3:** Executive Engineer (CAM-1), Mobile: 9448290572, **for Sl. No. 4:** Executive Engineer (Chemical-1), Mobile: 9448290767, **for Sl. No. 5:** Executive Engineer (CHP) Mechanical-2, Mobile: 9448290759, BTPS, KPCL, Kudathini-583152, Ballari District.

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY

No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No. BMICAPA/CLU-02/26/2023-24/997 **Date:16.10.2023**

PUBLIC NOTICE

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri Siddartha Gundarpi S/o G.H.Thippareddy, Sri P.Srinivas S/o Vijayakumar.P and Max Concorde Developers have applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from "Agriculture" Zone to "Residential" Zone which land is reserved for Agriculture purpose in approved Master plan under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961, pertaining to Sy.No: 66/1 Extent of OAcre-20Guntas, Sy.No:67/8 Extent of 0Acre-09¾Guntas, Sy.No:67/9 Extent of 0Acre- 09¾Guntas, Sy.No:67/10, Extent of 0Acre-09¾Guntas, Sy.No:67/11 Extent of 0Acre- 09¾Guntas, Sy.No:67/12 Extent of 0Acre-09¾Guntas, Sy.No:67/13 Extent of 0Acre-09½Guntas, Sy.No:67/14 Extent of 0Acre-04¾Guntas, Sy.No:67/15 Extent of 0Acre-31¼Guntas, Sy.No:68/1 Extent of 0Acre-03Guntas, Sy.No:68/2 Extent of 0Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No:68/4 Extent of 0Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No:68/5 Extent of 0Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No:68/6 Extent of 0Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No:68/7 Extent of 0Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No:68/8 Extent of 0Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No:69/1 Extent of 0Acre-07Guntas, Sy.No:69/2 Extent of OAcre-04Guntas, Sy.No:69/7 Extent of 0Acre-06Guntas, Sy.No:69/8 Extent of OAcre-06Guntas. Sy.No:69/9 Extent of 0Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No:69/10 Extent of 0Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No:69/11 Extent of 0Acre-05Guntas, Sy.No:69/12 Extent of 0Acre-05Guntas, Sy.No:69/13 Extent of 0Acre-05 Guntas, Sy.No:69/14 Extent of 0Acre-05Guntas, Sy.No:69/15 Extent of 0Acre-06Guntas, Sy.No:69/16 Extent of 0Acre-06Guntas, Sy.No:69/17 Extent of 0Acre-06Guntas. Sy.No:69/18 Extent of 0Acre-06Guntas, Sy.No:69/19 Extent of 0Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No:69/20 Extent of 0Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No:69/21 Extent of 0Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No:69/22 Extent of 0Acre-04Guntas, Sy.No:69/23 Extent of 0Acre-05Guntas, Sy.No:69/24 Extent of 0Acre-05Guntas, Sy.No:95/5 Extent of 01Acre-23Guntas, of Heggadagere Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramangara Taluk and Sy.No:29/2 Extent of 02Acre-04Guntas of Bananduru village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramangara Taluk toatally measuring 09Acre - 29¼ Guntas. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following:

1. By developing the layout in the above said land, the poor and middle class people will get the sites for reasonable price.
2. During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers.
3. Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the layout in the above said land.
4. By planned layout the public are benefited with the civic amenities such as good roads, parks, etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objection received there after will not be considered.

Sd/-
Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/JA/1739/2023-24

RURAL DRINKING WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION DIVISION, CHIKMAGALUR.

Tender Notice No.: 21/2023-24/ Dtd.: 11.10.2023

Notice Inviting Tender

Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chikkamagalur invites Tender through K.P.P.Portal related to 06 works of Kadur Taluk of Chikkamagaluru District. Minimum amount of works is Rs. 37.69 lakhs and Maximum amount of works is Rs. 108.35 lakhs. Details regarding undertaking or having implemented work as per Standard Tender Document KW-3 & 4 should be attached. Contract can be awarded to contractors only if they have the minimum qualifications as mentioned in Act 1.Tender for works should be submitted through e-procurement from 11.10.2023 to 30.10.2023 up to 5.00 PM. Tender will be opened on 31.10.2023 at 5.30 PM. In case this day is a holiday the next day will be considered. Notification can be read on https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in For further details the case worker can be contacted during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Division, Chikkamagalur

DIPR/ckm/No.78/ksmca/23-24/627

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No.: 908/BGK/SE(E)/AEE(W)/Tr. (W&M)/23-24/3479-90 Date: 17.10.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP Portal)

KPTCL invites bids against **Bid Enquiry No.: KPTCL/2023-24/SE0002** for **"Housekeeping of Zonal Office Complex Building & Meeting Hall at 110kV Sub-Station premises Navanagar for the period of Nine months for the year 2023-24 coming under the jurisdiction of Superintending Engineer (El.), KPTCL, Tr. (W&M) Circle, Bagalkote"** The detailed notifications regarding the above Housekeeping works enquiry in the KPPP process can be obtained by logging on KPTCLs website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** on hyperlink "e-procurement-KPTCL" or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after 5.30 p.m. on 18.10.2023.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.), Transmission (W&M) Circle, Opp. Sector No. 45, KPTCL Zonal Office Complex, Navanagara, Bagalkote-587103. Ph: 08354-236032/236029

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division, Sir|| M.Vishweshwaraiah Commercial Complex, 12th Main Road, 2nd Block, Rajajinagara, Bengaluru - 10.

No: EE/RNR/E-PROC/03/2023-24 **Date: 17.10.2023**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIICATION
(Through **GOK kpp Portal** only)

Tenders for the following works on Item rate are invited as **Standard Bid Documents KW-1** by the Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division BBMP from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or Equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Approved Works /Category	Estimated Cost (₹. in Lakhs)	EMD (in ₹.)
1.	Filling of Potholes in New Ward No-129 (Old No.97) Dayananda Nagara. (SC)	15.00	22,500/-
2.	Filling of Potholes in New Ward No-130 (Old No.108) Srirama-mandira. (ST)	15.00	18,750/-
3.	Filling of Potholes in New Ward No-131 (Old No.107) Shiva Nagara. (SC)	15.00	22,500/-
4.	Filling of Potholes in New Ward No-132 (Old No.99) Rajaji-Nagara. (Others)	15.00	37,500/-
5.	Filling of Potholes in New Ward No-133 (Old No.100) Basavesh-waranagara. (Others)	15.00	37,500/-
6.	Filling of Potholes in New Ward No-134 (Old No.101) Kamakshi-palya. (Others)	15.00	37,500/-

Calendar of Events : (1) Last Date for uploading the filled proposal is **26.10.2023** upto **4:00 pm** (2) Date of opening of Financial Proposals is **27.10.2023** at **4:30** pm. (3) This tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP Website: **www.bbmp.gov.in**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Bangalore South Division, Amruthnagara, Konankunte Main Road, Soudamini Layout, Bangalore - 62

No. BBMP/EE/BSD/TEND/07/2023-24 Dated : 17-10-2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Only through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal) (SINGLE COVER SYSTEM)

The Executive Engineer, (Bangalore South Division), BBMP, Bangalore-62, invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, or equivalent Registration with / KPWD / CPWD / BWSSB / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of Works	Approximate value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1	Filling of Potholes in ward roads of Uttarahalli Sub Division (New Ward No. 202 - Uttarahalli, 203 - Subramanyapura, 204 - Vasanthapura, 205 - Yelechenahalli)	60.00	1,20,000/-
2	Filling of Potholes in ward roads of Anjanapura Sub Division (New Ward No. 206 - Konanakunte, 207 - RBI Layout, 208 - Anjanapura, 209 - Gottigere)	60.00	1,20,000/-
3	Filling of Potholes in ward roads of Begur Sub Division (New Ward No. 210 - Kalena Agrahara, 211 - Begur, 212 - Naganathapura, 225 - Kudlu)	60.00	1,20,000/-

Calendar of events : (1) Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is **26.10.2023 upto 04.00 p.m. (2)** Date of Technical bid opening of Tenders is on **27.10.2023 by 04.30 p.m.**

For details, registration and e-payment visit GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Helpdesk at 91-8046010000, 91-8068948777.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Bangalore South Division, BBMP

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department

Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Karwar. Po:Habbuwada, Karwar, Uttara Kannada Dist-581 306.
Phone: 08382-229735 E-mail: eerdwsd.uk@gmail.com

NO.: EE/RDWSD/KWR/JJM/2023-24/1421 DATE: 16.10.2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Karwar invites on behalf of Governor of Karnataka request for proposal tenders from the eligible bidders for the work detailed in the table below. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the **KTTP** Act and Standard Tender Document **KW-IV** shall be followed. The tenders are required to submit through E-procurement portal **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

(1) Downloading of document through e-proc portal: **12.10.2023 to 25.10.2023 up to 16.30 Hrs**. (2) Time & date of Pre-Bid Conference: **20.10.2023 Time: 11.30 Hrs.** (3) Venue: O/o. Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Po: Habbuwada, Karwar- Uttara Kannada Dist. (4) Last Date & Time for Receipt of Bids: **25.10.2023 Time: 16.30 Hrs.** (5) Date & Time of Technical Bid Opening: **26.10.2023 Time: 17:00 Hrs**. (6) Date & Time of Financial Bid Opening: Will be informed technically qualified bidders after approval of Technical Bid

Name of the work: (1) INDENT2252 (2) INDENT5940

More details can be had from the office of the undersigned **(Phone: 08382-229735 E mail: eerdwsd.uk@gmail.com)** and also through website kppp.karnataka.gov.in by clicking list of Tenders which will link to all dept works list.

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/287/23-24 dt.16.10.2023

***Sd/-* Executive Engineer,**
RDW&S Division, Karwar, Uttara Kannada District

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Chikkapete Division, 8th Main, 2nd Block, Jayanagara, Kanakanapalya, Bengaluru-560 011.

No:EE/CKP/E-PROC/07/2023-24 Date: 16.10.2023

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (Two Cover)
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Chikkapete Division, BBMP Bengaluru Invites Tenders from eligible Tenderers for the Pothole Filling works detailed in the table below. **(Standard Tender Document-KW3)**

Name of the Work	Approx. Amount Put to Tender (₹ in lakhs)	EMD (in ₹)
Providing Pothole Filling to Chikkapete Constituency Roads for the year of 2023-24	90.00	1,80,000.00

(Calendar of Events: (1) Tender must be submitted online through kpp portal on or before **31.10.2023** upto **4:00** pm. (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **25.10.2023** at **3:00** pm in the Office of the Chief Engineer (South), Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, Jayanagara 2nd Block, Bengaluru - 560 011. (3) Last Date for Uploading the Filled Tender Document is **31.10.2023** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Date of Technical Bid Opening of Tenders is **02.11.2023** by **11:30** am. (5) Date of Financial Bid Opening of Tenders is on after Technical Bid Approved. (6) This tender notice can also be seen on the BBMP Website: **www.bbmp.gov.in**. Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours on working days or from website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chikkapete Division

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD

Office of the Registrar, Krishinagar, Dharwad-5,

No.R/Rectt/Advt.62/2023 **Date: 11.10.2023**

CORRIGENDUM

Sub: Recruitment to various posts under Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad.

Ref: This Office Notification No.R/Rectt/Advt.62/2023, dated 26.9.2023.

In partial modification of this Office Notification cited at ref.(1) above, the advertised posts of Subject Matter Specialist (Home Science - Food Science & Nutrition) & Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Pathology) be read as Subject Matter Specialist (Home Science) & Subject Matter Specialist (Plant Protection), respectively. Consequently, the qualifications prescribed for the aforesaid posts are modified and also the last date of submission of filled-in applications for all the posts notified under ref.(1) is extended upto 10.11.2023. This corrigendum is accessible in the Official Website of the University (http://www.uasd.edu).

BY ORDER,
Sd/- REGISTRAR

DIPR/DWD/391/2023-24/Deshpandepublicity

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH

Office of the Executive Engineer, Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.

No: EE/RDW&SD/BNG(U)/TND/07/2023-24
Dated: 12-10-2023

KPPP SHORT TERM TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the works approved Under JJM Head of grants for the year 2022-23. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 25-10-2023 upto 4.00 PM.** For further details contact the above address during office hours or visit Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/1734/Adverto/2023-24

(TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT)

Office of the Commissioner for Transport in Karnataka, 1st Floor, T.T.M.C Building, B.M.T.C Complex, Bengaluru.

No: CT/F&B-3/PR-259/2022-23 **Date: 06.10.2023**

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Quotations are invited by Transport Department from the eligible firms for operation and maintenance of Automated Driving Testing Track established at Bagalkot. Quotations along with necessary documents shall be submitted On-line through e-Procurement platform only. For more details please log on to e-Procurement website **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** They may take assistance from e-Procurement help desk at **+91-8046010000/+91-8068948777.** Last date for submission of bids is: **03.11.2023 upto 3:00 p.m.** For clarifications please contact: **080-22235176.**

Sd/-
For Commssioner for Transport
Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/1743/MAA/2023-24

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SITUATION VACANT

FINANCE

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE

Ida Scudder Road, Vellore-632 004, TN.

SITUATIONS VACANT:

Post 1: OFFICER (FINANCE & ACCOUNTS)
Qualification : ACA/ACMA.
Age Limit : Below 35 years.

Post 2: MANAGER (FINANCE & ACCOUNTS)
Qualification : ACA/ACMA with over 12 years of post-qualification in Finance & Accounts of a large organization and at least 5 years at senior level. Age Limit : Below 45 years.

Post 3: SR. MANAGER (FINANCE & ACCOUNTS)
Qualification :ACA/ACMA with over 15 years of post-qualification in Finance & Accounts of a large organization and at least 5 years at senior level. Age Limit : Below 55 years.

Salary For Post 1, 2 & 3: As per Institutional norms. Suitable experience may be considered for additional weightage of Salary

Applications are to be done only through the online application system. Please log on to **https://www.cmch-vellore.edu/JobVacancy.aspx?jtype**

HARD COPIES AND EMAILS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. APPLICATIONS WILL BE CLOSED BY 31.10.2023

MEDICAL

JOSEPH HOSPITALS, Premier OBS & GYN Hospital based in Chennai Requires1.Duty Obs., & Gyn– Registrars (MD, MS, or DGO) Ideal for PGs looking for practical Experience before going in to practice. Monthly Salary Rs. 1 to 2 Lakh based on experience. 2. Post Doctoral Fellowships in High Risk Pregnancy & Labour Management– MGR University Recognised 1 year fellowship. Apply to Director, Joseph Hospitals 10A Guruswamy Road, Chetpet, Chennai –31. or (askus@josephhospitals.com)

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

I, YESHWANTH S, R/at Bagalur Village and Post, Jala Hobli, Bangalore, have lost my original Two Sale Deed documents while travelling I have raised an lost complaint dtd 20–07–2023, FIR No. 0651486/2023 and FIR No. 0650925/2023 the Registered Sale Deed bearing a) Doc No. MLR–1–08039–2013–14 and b) Doc No. MLR–1–08042–2013–14, CD NO. MLRD99, dtd 14–02–2014 stands in my name the property at Site No. 35, Katha No. 35/35 and Site No. 38, Katha No. 38/38, Sy No. 570 (Old Sy No. 112/29p2), Conversion Order No. ALN.SR(K)535/2007–08, situated at Malur Village, Araleri Grama Panchayath, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, if anyone found the document Please contact Mob No. 9916787699.

PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Change of Date of Birth

I, V SHANTHI W/O JC -177182N EX-SUB MAJ M. VELMURUGAN In residing at FLAT NO -107 Celebrity Srinivasines Apartment, 3rd Cross, Celebrity Paradise Layout, Doddathoguru,Bangalore-560100, hereby declare that **my correct date of birth is 10 Jan 1966** whereas the date of birth recorded in Pension PPO/Service records of my husband is **05 Dec 1965** is which is incorrect. **My correct date of birth ie 10 Jan 1966** be used for all future purposes and same be changed in Pension PPO/service records & sheet role of my husband. vide Affidavit Number No-IN-KA04347812822758V dated 04-OCT-23 before Notary by K.V.MANI Advocate & Notary Dated 04-OCT-23

CHANGE OF NAME

I, KALPANA, R/at 356/2, Bang–43 have changed my son's name from NISHANTH K to VIJAY NISHANTH for all his future purposes by affidavit 11–10–2023 Notary Uday Kumar.K

I, NAHIDA Banu, W/o Mohammed Alana Sait, R/a No 16/7, New No 7/3, Ground Floor, Umar Sharief Road Mohammedan Block, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004 have changed my name to Yasmeen Banu vide affidavit dt: 16.10.2023 sworn before Notary R.Vishwanath, B'lore.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ANANHA Kumar M, S/O Marirajan A, Residing at No.11, 23rd Cross Rd, Kaggadasapura, Bengaluru-560093, have changed my name to Anantha Kumar Marirajan sworn before Notary Sreedharan Nair.P.N(Reg.No.12333) Vide affidavit Dtd 17-10-23. Henceforth I shall be called as Anantha Kumar Marirajan Only.

I, Hemalatha GM W/O, Dinesh Babu KG and D/O, Mohan Rao GR R/o 303, 4th Main, Duo City Layout, Basapura, Bangalore 560100 have changed my name to Hemalatha Dinesh Babu.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ARATHI J, D/o. Shri Jagannath, W/o. Shri Biju Chackalalyil, aged about 51 years, residing at No. 514, 2nd Cross, 'E' Road, Ideal Homes Township, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore-560098, do hereby declare that my name is registered in all the government records as **Arathi J D/o Shri Jagannath** which is my correct name. However, while filling in the details in the prescribed application form for issuance of my Pass-port, by oversight, I have included the name of my husband **Biju** instead of mentioning the name as per government records which is **Smt. Arathi J** and accordingly, the pass-port was issued to me showing my name as **Smt. Arathi Biju,** my correct name i.e., **ARATHI J D/o. Shri Jagannath** as recorded in all the government records and to enable the Pass-Port authorities to correct my name in my pass-port, vide affidavit dated 16.10.2023, sworn to before Anitha Bai, Advocate & Notary, Bengaluru,

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

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BATCH BEGINS **26 OCT**
TEST SERIES **15 OCT**
57/17, 1ST FLOOR, NEAR HDFC BANK, OLD RAJENDER NAGAR, DELHI-60
9811343411, 9811343464, 9811343938

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 26th ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL, AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYO HALL, AT BANGALORE (CCH-20) O.S. No. 25448/2022

BETWEEN :
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M. G. Road, Bangalore- 560001.
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Pramodh. G,
Aged about 46 years
S/o Gurumallappa
...PLAINTIFF

AND :
1. MS. LATHIFA BI
D/o Mr. Sulthan Mohiddin
Aged 60 years, No. 106, Colombia Celest, IA Puttenahalli Main Road, J.P. Nagar, 7th Phase, Bangalore-560078.
2. MR. MOHAMMED IQBAL
S/o. Mr. Karim Mohammed Ibrahim, Aged 65 years
No. 106, Colombia Celest, 1A Puttenahalli Main Road, J.P. Nagar, 7h Phase, Bangalore-560078.
...DEFENDANT

Summons to Defendant

Whereas the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 14,87,254.76/- (Rupees Fourteen Lakhs Eighty Seven Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Four and paisa Seventy Six Only)** apart from future interest of 12.06% p.a. in **O.S. No. 25448/ 2022** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 20**, Before 26th Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **25th** day of **November, 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence Ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the **12th** day of **October, 2023.**

By the order of Court,
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayohall,
Bengaluru-560 001

FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
Bengaluru- 560 005.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHAIMA Fathima, D/o Mohammed Alana Sait, R/a No 16/7, New No 7/3, Ground Floor, Umar Sharief Road Mohammedan Block, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004 have changed my name to Saima Fathima vide affidavit dt: 16.10.2023 sworn before Notary R.Vishwanath, B'lore.

I, ASKAR Abbas, S/o Sibthe Ahmed, R/at No.320, 2nd Floor, Dorebseth Road, Austin Town, Bangalore-560047 have changed my name from Askar Abbas to Syed Askar Abbas vide affidavit dated 17-10-2023 before Notary K.V. Mani, Bengaluru.

EDUCATIONAL

VACANCIES

KANNUR UNIVERSITY (ACADEMIC BRANCH)
No. Acad B3/23389/2019
Dated 13.10.2023

RE NOTIFICATION

Online applications are invited from the eligible candidates for the posts of Professor, Associate Professor and Assistant Professor in various Teaching Departments of the University on regular basis. Application can be submitted through the official website of the University (Recruitment link) from **16.10.2023** to **15.11.2023**. Corrigendum, if any, will be posted only on the University website. Last Date of receipt of Online Applications is 15.11.2023 & hard copy is 25.11.2023. For more details, visit www.kannuruniversity.ac.in.

Sd/- Registrar

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF 26th ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL, AND SESSION JUDGE, MAYO HALI, AT BANGALORE (CCH-20) O.S. No. 25067/2023

BETWEEN :
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M. G. Road, Bangalore- 560001.
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Ms. Mansi Singh, Aged about 24 years, D/o Mr. Anil Kumar Singh **...PLAINTIFF**

AND :
1. Mr. RAJESH M.
S/o. Munichandrappa
Aged about 37 years
Ward No. 9, Maralu Bagilu Devanahalli, Bangalore-562110 **...DEFENDANT**

Summons to Defendant

Whereas the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of **Rs. 5,02,339.21/- (Rupees Five Lakhs Two Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Nine and Paisa Twenty One Only)** apart from future interest of 9.85% p.a. in **O.S. No. 25067/ 2023** and same is pending adjudication in **CCH 20**, Before 26th Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the **17th** day of **November, 2023** at **11:00 A.M.** to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence Ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the **09th** day of **October, 2023.**

By the order of Court,
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Mayohall,
Bengaluru- 560 001

FX & CO.,
ADVOCATES,
New No. 9, Old No. 11/1
Gover Road, Cox Town,
Bengaluru- 560 005.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Against all hope: LGBTQ+ community supporters and members hold hands as they wait for the Supreme Court verdict on petitions that seek the legalisation of same-sex marriage, in New Delhi on October 17. AP

A case for marriage equality: the legal arguments for same-sex marriage

Legal recognition of queerness and love should not be opposed by the state or by some supposedly well-meaning proponents of the doctrine of separation of powers. Queerness and queer love deserve not just legal recognition by the state, but to be celebrated

Rohin Bhatt

The five-judge Constitution Bench, which decided on the same-sex marriage case, by a majority view, has held that non-heterosexual couples cannot claim an unqualified right to marry. In this article dated April 5, 2023, Rohin Bhatt asserts that queer people, as equal citizens of the country, cannot wait until society thinks it is acceptable for them to have rights

On March 12, the Centre filed an affidavit in the Supreme Court frowning upon same-sex marriage. It invoked the "accepted view" that marriage between a biological man and woman is a "holy union, a sacrament and sanskar (culture)" in India. Many hold the view that the issue should be debated by Parliament and not by the courts. More than 20 retired judges issued a statement saying that legalisation of same-sex marriage will "strike at the very root of the family system" and that "such a sensitive issue concerning the society at large be debated in the Parliament and State Legislature as well." The Union Law Minister argued that the issue should be left to the "wisdom of the people." And law professors such as Tahir Mahmood and G.S. Bajpai have also written about it.

But this will never happen. As the Union government has made its position clear on the legalisation of same-sex marriage and holds the view that queer people like me will wreak havoc on social institutions with our demands, Parliament will never enact such a law.

Citizens with equal rights

Let us examine some of these arguments. First, it is argued that legalising queer marriages will destroy the concept of family, which is the "fundamental building block of society." For long, queer people have had to deal with their rights being granted as gifts from heteronormative society. But no more. We are equal citizens of the country and deserve the same rights as cisgender heterosexual people. Queer people are demanding equal rights, not just of marriage, but of horizontal reservation and protection from natal families. We don't demand these as largesse to be bestowed upon us by society, but that they be accorded to us as equal citizens of this democratic nation.

It is also argued that this is not a matter of judicial interference, but one of interpreting the statutes. For laypersons and lawyers alike, the interpretation of statutes is an art. It is not rare to find headlines with rulings that say 'frozen parathas are not rotis' or that 'Sachin Tendulkar is an actor and not a cricketer'. These examples simply show how lawyers often bend over backwards to interpret statutes in a way that fits their case. There is no reason that statutes cannot be interpreted creatively in favour of fundamental rights.

It is true that laws relating to marriage have a religious genesis. However, Indian law on marriage is a mixture of common law and religion. While traditionally, marriage under Hindu law is a sacrament, it stopped being so when divorce was introduced. Marriage is now nothing but a status conferred by law. The court said in the Sabarimala case that religion must give way to constitutional morality, though a review of the judgment is pending. Nevertheless, most parties in the marriage equality case before the court are those who want to get married under the Hindu Marriage Act. Queer relationships were not an aberration in Hinduism, as scholars Ruth Vanita and Saleem Kidwai have demonstrated. The remaining petitions are filed under the Special Marriage Act, save for Zainab Patel's petition which argues for marriage equality under all religious laws.

It is also argued that the laws pertaining to marriage necessitate procreation. While this may be true, there seem to be no attempts to take away the marriage rights of heterosexual married couples who do not procreate as per mutual consent. While entering into a queer relationship, both parties are aware that they will be unable to procreate. This is called 'social' or 'circumstantial' infertility. The term was initially coined to describe women who did not have children despite no medical condition, and is now used in the context of queer people too. If both parties decide to marry with the knowledge that one or both of them are impotent, there cannot be a case for taking away their rights merely because they are queer.

It is also said that conventional conceptualisations of family and marriage are facing evolutionary challenges. This argument is based on the idea that a family comprises two parents of the opposite sex and their two children. This argument makes it seem as though new forms of marriage which are non-heterosexual are new. They are not. The hijara 'gharana' system, maitri karar and other forms of alternative familial structures have existed for a long time in the sub-continent.

A legitimate legal need

This is not to argue that marriage will lead to queer liberation. In fact, marriage does not obfuscate but lays bare the caste hierarchies that embolden discrimination and segregation. But despite being a faulty institution, marriage is a legitimate legal need in order to file taxes jointly, inherit property, open bank accounts, and choose nominees for insurance policies. Queer people cannot wait until society thinks it is acceptable for us to have rights. We refuse to be polite citizens, we will continue to be unapologetic about our sexuality, and we will continue to challenge widespread notions of respectability, of marriage, and procreation. We refuse to cower in the terror of knowing that the only way we can survive is if we are smart, lucky, or are fighters. We demand that notions of family and traditions be broadened and notions of acceptability and respectability be demolished. Legal recognition of queerness and love should not be opposed by the state or by some supposedly well-meaning proponents of the doctrine of separation of powers. Queerness and queer love deserve not just legal recognition by the state, but to be celebrated.

Rohin Bhatt is a lawyer.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Supreme Court on October 17 ruled against giving constitutional validity to same-sex marriages. Here is a quiz on countries and their laws on same-sex marriage

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
In 2023, this country's government in March vowed to legalise same-sex marriage. It will take effect on January 1, 2024. Name the country.

QUESTION 2
As of 2023, marriage between same-sex couples is legally performed and recognised in how many countries? Which is the most recent country?

QUESTION 3
Which was the first country in the world to legalise same-sex marriage? In which year did it happen?

QUESTION 4
Female same-sex marriage is practised among the Gikuyu, Nandi, Kamba, and Kipsigis in this region. However, this is not seen as homosexual but is instead a way for families without sons to keep their inheritance within the family. This happens in which region of the world?

QUESTION 5
This country's new constitution adopted by referendum in June 2023, includes a clause limiting marriage to a union of one man and one woman. Name the country.

QUESTION 6
Capital punishment currently remains a legal punishment in several countries most of which have sharia based criminal laws except for one. This became the only Christian-majority country with capital punishment for some consensual same-sex acts in 2023. Name the country.

Visual question:
Identify this couple. What are they known for?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This Biblical figure died in Gaza while destroying the Temple of the Philistines. **Ans: Samson**
2. This empire's control over Gaza came to an end during WWI. **Ans: Ottoman Empire**
3. This country held the Gaza Strip for two decades under a military governor. **Ans: Egypt**
4. Expand Hamas. **Ans: Ḥarakat al-Muqāwamah al-Islāmiyyah (Islamic Resistance Movement)**
5. The UN agency that came into being in December 1949 to 'provide direct relief and works programmes for Palestinian refugees. **Ans: UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East)**
6. The European city after which the agreements between Israel and the PLO, signed in 1993 and 1995, are named. **Ans: Oslo**
Visual: Identify this man. **Ans: Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas**
Early Birds: Satish Reddy Kanaganti| Imdadul Hossain Mallick| Gulab Singh Narwal| Ashraf Basha Mirha| Atul Gaur

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Ms. Vijitha, Hyderabad, wants to know the pronunciation of 'alias'."

"The first 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'fate,' the 'i' is pronounced like the 'i' in 'hit', the second 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'India' and 's' as in 'sit'. 'Alias' means 'the name by which one is or has been called at other times'. 'Alias' is 'a false name, especially used by someone who is doing something criminal'. It is a Latin word meaning 'at another time, otherwise'.

He is a big fraud. He has several aliases.

It is also used occasionally to mean 'a nickname'."

"Sir, Mr. S. Karan wants to know the meaning of 'more often than not'."

" 'More often than not' means 'more than half of the time, usually'.

More often than not, she comes late.

More often than not, he speaks rubbish.

'Every so often' means 'occasionally', 'from time to time'.

Every so often, he goes to Calcutta."

"Sir, Mr. B. Subash, Sri Ayyappanagar, Madras, wants to know the meaning of 'once in a blue moon'."

"It means 'very rarely'.

I visit him once in a blue moon.

He takes his wife out once in a blue moon."

"Sir, Ms. Niranjana Nagarajan wants to know the difference between 'unmanageable' and 'unruly'."

" 'Unmanageable' is something that you can't manage or deal with.

It is an unmanageable crowd.

It is too big.

It is an unmanageable task.

'Unruly' means 'wild in behaviour', 'difficult to control'. Unruly is used generally with animate beings.

This is an unruly buffalo.

This class is an unruly one.

It is also used figuratively. 'Unruly hair' is hair that cannot be kept in place."

"Sir, Mr. C. Venkatasubbavadhanulu, Nuzwid, wants to know the precise meaning of 'medico'."

"'Medico' or 'medic' means 'a medical doctor or a medical student'. These are used in informal contexts.

He is a first year medic.

I was scared when a bunch of medicos asked me a lot of questions about my illness."

"Sir, Ms. R. Gayatri, X Standard, Lovedale, Tamil Nadu, wants to know whether we 'substitute' something for something else or with something else."

"You substitute something for something. When you substitute A for B, you put A in the place of B. When you replace A with B, you put B in the place of A. You substitute something for something else, you replace something with something else."

"Sir, Mr. B. Jambolingam, Tamil University, Thanjavur, wants to know the meaning of 'cre'me de la cre'me'."

"This is a French expression which means 'the cream of the cream, the very best'.

These are the cre'me de la cre'me of our students.

These flowers are the cre'me de la cre'me of our garden."

Published in The Hindu on September 19, 1989.

Word of the day

Catnap:

sleeping for a short period of time (usually not in bed); take a siesta

Synonyms: nap, short sleep, snooze, forty winks, catch a wink

Usage: *A catnap after lunch makes you feel refreshed.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/catnappro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /kæt.næp/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

THE HINDU

OPPORTUNITIES

GENERAL

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED VIROLOGY
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala - 695317

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION – SCIENTIST POSITIONS

Applications are invited for recruitment to the permanent scientist positions on direct recruitment basis:

For detailed notification and the link for submitting the online application, log on to www.iav.kerala.gov.in

Last date for the receipt of online application: 31.10.2023.

S/d
Director

Sri Vishnu Educational Society's
SHRI VISHNU ENGINEERING COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
(Autonomous)
(Approved by AICTE, Affiliated to JNTUK, Accredited with 'A+' Grade by NAAC & NBA)
Vishnupur, Bhimavaram - 534 202, W.G. Dist., A.P. Ph: 08816-250864 Fax: 08816-250099
Website: www.svecw.edu.in Email: principal@svecw.edu.in

FACULTY RECRUITMENT

Applications are invited from the suitable candidates for the following posts.

Department(s)	Faculty Position
CSE / IT / AI&DS / AI & ML / Cyber Security / ECE / EEE / MEC / CIV	Professors Associate Professors Assistant Professors
Maths/English/Chemistry/Physics/ **Management Studies (MBA)**	

- Qualification & experience and pay scale are as per AICTE norms.
- Salary is not a constraint for deserving candidates.
- Applicants from PG / Ph.D. from IISc / IIT / IIIT / NIT are preferred.
- Applications may be sent by qualified, experienced & dedicated candidates to the mail id : jobs@svecw.edu.in by attaching copies of all the certificates on or before **31.10.2023.**

- PRINCIPAL

MES MEDICAL COLLEGE HOSPITAL
MES Medical College Campus, Palachode P.O.,
Perinthalmanna, Malappuram, Kerala, India.
Phone : 04933 - 298313. Web : www.mesams.com

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SENIOR RESIDENT
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- FORENSIC MEDICINE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
- MICROBIOLOGY
- OPHTHALMOLOGY

Interested candidates may send their CV to : **ae@mesams.com**
hrmanager@mesams.com Phone : 04933 298335, 313

To Advertise in
The Hindu Opportunities column,
Please contact,
gurunathareddy.s@thehindu.co.in or
Ph: 9845529981

SRINIVAS UNIVERSITY
Srinivas Nagar, Mukka, Surathkal, Mangaluru -574146 Karnataka
Ph.: 0824-2444891, 2422381 www.srinivasuniversity.edu.in,
Email:info@srinivasuniversity.edu.in

APPOINTMENT

Applications are invited for the following position of

Assistant Professor

Qualification: MOT (Master of Occupational therapists)
Minimum 3 years experience is preferable.
Salary is negotiable as per the recommended standards.

Kindly send your resume to
deanphysiotherapy@srinivasuniversity.edu.in or
Contact 0824-2429139, Mob: 6366410492

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RECRUITMENT

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Faculty :Professors/Assoc, Professors/Asst. Professors
For the following departments
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— Qualifications, Experience & Pay Scales as per AICTE norms —
Attractive package will be offered to the desirable candidates with B.Tech & M.Tech in Computer Science / Information Technology / Software Engineering
Interested candidates fill the details:
https://www.aceec.ac.in/faculty-recruitment/
by on or before 31-10-2023

Sd/- Principal

PSG COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY
Coimbatore - 641 004.
Advt. No. N4 / 2 / 2023

WANTED
(for Self Supporting Programmes)

Applications are invited from fully eligible candidates for the posts of

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**

in various departments of Engineering, Applied Science, Science & Humanities under self supporting programmes

Application form & Eligibility conditions are available in the College website **www.psgtech.edu**

Filled in application should be **sent by post** within 15 days from the date of this advertisement

PRINCIPAL

KANNUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
KANNUR International Airport Ltd.

APPOINTMENTS

Applications are invited for the following posts:

- MANAGER - ELECTRICAL - 1
- MANAGER - CIVIL - 1
- ASSISTANT MANAGER - ARFF - 2
- SUPERVISOR - ARFF - 1

Details are available in the website
www.kannurairport.aero/careers
Apply online through the website.

Last date for submitting online applications is **01-11-2023 (17.00 hrs)**

Sd/-
Managing Director

DREDGING CORPORATION OF INDIA LTD
(Under consortium of Visakhapatnam Port Authority, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, Paradip Port Authority and Deendayal Port Authority)
H.O.: H B Colony, Seethammadhara, VISAKHAPATNAM - 530 022

ADVT. No. 06/2023

DCIL invites applications for the post of

MANAGING DIRECTOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

For detailed advertisement and submission of online applications please log on to website **https://www.dredge-india.com/career**

Commencement of online Application: **18-10-2023 from 10.00 Hrs**
Last date for submission of online Application upto:**08-11-2023 at 18.00 Hrs**

WANTED

Josco Jewellers, India's No. 1 Jewellery Group, is on the lookout for male candidates for their New Bengaluru showroom for the post of:

MANAGER-PUBLIC RELATIONS

Looking for a self-motivated team player with good liaison and multi-linguistic skills, proficiency in Kannada language and pleasing personality. He must be comfortable working on the field and has quality local contacts so as to invite new potential customers. He should generate relationships with prospective customers to be closed by sales and work with the sales, marketing and operations teams to meet the business targets.

He must have 10 years of experience in similar field. Candidates from the same area are preferred. Age: 40-45 years.

Interested candidates may send your detailed resume with photo within 3 days to **careers@joscogroup.com**

JOSCO
JEWELLERS

TONICO

GENERAL

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited
(A Govt. of India Enterprise and A subsidiary of ONGC Limited)
Kuthethoor Post, Mangaluru - 575 030
e-mail: recruit1@mrpl.co.in

Advertisement No. 89/2023
Last date for receipt of hard copy of application by speed post / courier: 06/11/2023

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), invites applications for the following position:

Deputy General Manager (Secretarial)

No. of Post : 01
Pay Scale : 120,000 – 280,000
Upper age Limit : 46 years

Interested candidates can visit our website **https://www.mrpl.co.in/careers** for detailed advertisement.

STEEL AUTHORITY OF INDIA LIMITED
Rourkela Steel Plant
Rourkela - 769 011, Odisha, India

Advt. No. 06/2023 Date. 12.10.2023

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW FOR ENGAGEMENT AS DOCTORS
ON CONTRACTUAL BASIS

Rourkela Steel Plant invites personnel, fulfilling the eligibility criteria given below, to appear in the Walk-in-Interview on 03/11/2023 during 9.30 am to 11.30 am at New Conference Hall, Ispat General Hospital, Sector-19, Rourkela-769005 (Odisha) for engagement as Specialist / GDMO for its Hospitals at Rourkela and at different Mines under Odisha Group of Mines (OGoM) on contractual basis.

(A) For engagement in IGH/OHSC/other units of M&HS Deptt. at Rourkela

Discipline	Nos. to be Engaged	Upper Age limit as on 12/10/2023	Qualification as on 12/10/2023
Specialist (ENT)	01	69 years	MBBS with MS/DNB in ENT from a university / institute recognized by MCI / NMC / NBE.
Specialist (Pulm. Medicine)	01	69 years	MBBS with MD/DNB in Pulmonary Medicine from a university / institute recognized by MCI / NMC / NBE.
GDMO	06	69 years	MBBS from a university / institute recognized by MCI / NMC / NBE. Must have completed internship.

(B) For engagement in Hospitals of OGoM at Bolani / Barsuan Mines

Discipline	Nos. to be Engaged	Upper Age limit as on 12/10/2023	Qualification as on 12/10/2023
Specialist (Ophthalmology)	02	69 years	MBBS with MS/DNB in Ophthalmology from a university / institute recognized by MCI / NMC / NBE.
Specialist (Medicine)	01	69 years	MBBS with MD/DNB in Medicine from a university / institute recognized by MCI / NMC / NBE.

For full details of advertisement please visit Company's website at www.sail.co.in at the link "Careers". Any subsequent changes if made in this employment notice shall be communicated through SAIL website. Candidates are advised to keep themselves updated of the changes, if any.

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GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, KENDRAPARA-JAJPUR
AT/PO - NAYABAZAR, CUTTACK - 753004, Tel No. 0671-2444488,
Email - serw_kpd@yahoo.com

No:- Tender Online RCK - 37/23 Letter No.- 3900 / Date:- 11.10.23

e - Procurement NOTICE

1. **Name of the Work** : **Tender for the Bridge works under BSY in the Dist. of Kendrapara & Jajpur.**
2. **Class of Contractor** : As specified in the **Column-6 of the Annexure.**
3. **Time of Completion** : As Specified in the **Column - 7 of the Annexure.**
4. **Detail Projects** : **As per Annexure attached**
5. **Other Details** :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of opening of tender Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur	**Tender Online RCK- 37/23**	**19.10.2023 at 11.00 A.M.**	**06.11.2023 to 05.00 P.M.**	**04.11.2023 up to 02.00 P.M.**	**07.11.2023 at 11.00 A.M.**	**To be intimated later**

Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

D.P. Karan,
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Kendrapara-Jajpur

O-1284: OIPR-25129/11/0043/2324

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : (1) 2ndRe E-Tender No.WRD/KWA-CE(SR)/TR/17025/2022_26_4_3/1, (2) 2nd Re E-Tender No. WRD/KWA-CE(SR)/TR/17025/2022_26 **(1)** Jal Jeevan Mission-CWSS to Mundakayam, Koruthode Pts - Package 4 - Koruthode Panchayath Pipeline Work, **(2)** Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)-CWSS to Mundakayam, Koruthode Panchayaths-Package 5 - Koruthode Panchayath - Construction of GLSR at Chakirimedu and Kombukuthi, Providing Steel BP tanks 2 Nos at Kombukuthy, CWPM , CWGM, Distribution system and Providing FHTCs; **EMD :** Rs. 5,00,000/- Each; Tender fee : Rs. 16540 +(2978) GST; **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 30-10-2023 12:00:pm; **Phone :** 0481 2562745

Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-1382-2023-24 **PH Circle, Kottayam**

CENTRAL SANSKRIT UNIVERSITY
Accredited with A++ Grade by NAAC
56-57, Institutional Area, Janakpuri, New Delhi - 110058

Date: 18.10.2023

ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANT ENGINEERS

Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates for engagement of Consultant Engineer (Civil) at the level of Executive Engineer and Consultant Engineers (Civil and Electrical) at the level of Assistant Engineers on purely temporary and contract basis. For detailed notification regarding number of positions, submission of application, schedule, eligibility conditions, etc., please visit the University website **www.sanskrit.nic.in**. Last date for submission of application is **31.10.2023.**

REGISTRAR

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. 40/MYS/2023
Dated: 12.10.2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

SL	Name of Works	Approx. Value
1	Elimination of LC No.203 at km 329/400-500 between Davangere-Amaravathi Colony stations by construction of Sub-way. (Launching of Box which was already casted).	Rs. 7,24,33,016/-
2	Amaravathi Colony-Kotturu Section: Elimination of LC No.64 at Km.126/300-400 between Amaravathi Colon-Teligi stations by construction of Sub-way.	Rs. 6,88,65,838/-
3	Arsikere-Birur Section: Proposed Construction of RUB of size 2 X 5M X 4.65M RCC box in lieu of LC No. 109 at KM 179/900-180/000 between Amaravathi Colony-Banavar stations.	Rs. 13,71,92,027/-
4	Arsikere-Birur Section: Proposed Construction of RUB of size 1 x 5M x 4.65M RCC box in lieu of LC No. 108 at KM 178/800-900 between Amaravathi Colony- Banavar Stations.	Rs. 8,73,59,545/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 hrs. of 03.11.2023**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-ord Mysuru

PUB/451/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24

S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

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18th-29th Oct
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VENUE: CHITRAKALA PARISHATH
Gallery No.:4, Kumarakrupa Road, Bengaluru-560001, ✆ 7353857787

The Development Commissioner (Handloom, Ministry of Textiles, Govt, Of India commissioner, Handloom and Handicrafts M.P.Govt.
Sant Ravidas M.P. Hastshilpa Evam Hathkargha Vikas Nigam Ltd. (A Govt. of M.P. Undertaking)

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020.

CORRIGENDUM

With reference to the e-Auction Notification No. **BDA/EM/e-Auction/ T-02/2023-24** dated **30.09.2023** published in this newspaper on **08.10.2023, Sl. No. 107 & 108** were mentioned as belonging to Vishweshwaraiah Layout 6th Block. It should be read as **Vishweshwaraiah Layout 7th Block.** The other terms and conditions remain the same. BDA regrets for the inconvenience.

Sd/- Engineer Member

Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha
No. 113, R. V. Road, V. V. Puram, Bangalore-560 004
Phone: 080-22410151/22429151/9900569151,
E-mail: sssbn1vvp@sreenidhibank.com

PUBLIC NOTICE - POSSESSION NOTICE

Sri. Shamanna R V

APPENDIX-IV
(See Rule 8(1)) r/w Sec. 13(4)(a)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of **M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha**, under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act 2002 (Central Act No.54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(12),13(2) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, issued a demand notice **dated 08/08/2023** calling upon the Borrower **M/s. S V Concrete Bricks rep by its Proprietor Sri. Shamanna R V Situated at Ramasandra Village, Sulikere Post, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru – 560 060 and 1) Sri. Shamanna R V S/o Late Doddavenkataramanappa, 2). Sri. Sunil Kumar R S S/o Shamanna R V 3) Smt. Rukmini R D/o Shamanna R V all are residing at No.1, Ramasandra Village, Sulikere Post, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru – 560 060 4). Sri. Shashi Kumar R S S/o Shamanna R V and 5) Smt. Asharani R S D/o Shamanna R V are residing at No.131, Ramasandra Village, Sulikere Post, Kengeri Hobli, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru – 560 060**, demanding to repay the amount of **Rs.1,43,88,334/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Three Lakhs Eighty Eight Thousand Three Hundred and Thirty Four)** only together with Interest and Costs thereon, being the loan amount due by them, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrower has failed to repay the said amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property mortgaged to the Bank and described in Schedule herein below, together with all rights to transfer by way of Lease, assignment or sale for realising the above mentioned amount (Secured Asset), in exercise of the powers conferred on him under Section 13(4)(a) of the said Act read with Rule-8 of the said Rules on this **16th Day of October 2023.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the said property and any dealings with the said property will be subject to the charge of M/s. Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha for a sum of **Rs.1,47,17,826/- (Rupees One Crore Forty Seven Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Six)** only **as on 16/10/2023** together with interest and costs thereon.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the bearing Katha No.4016/3/3, PID No.150200310900420327, measuring 9.144 X 36.576 mtrs in all measuring 334.45 Sq.mtrs, consisting of Ground, First, Second and Third Floor Building, situated at Ramasandra Village, Kengeri Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on the **East By:** Private Property; **West by:** Remaining Property; **North by:** Road; **South by:** Remaining Property.

Date : 16/10/2023
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Sreenidhi Souharda Sahakari Bank Niyamitha

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION
ISRO TELEMETRY TRACKING AND COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC), CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
Plot No. 12 & 13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate,
Bengaluru-560058. Ph: 080-28094196, 4184, 4541, Fax: 080-28094180

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, Item rate E-Tender is invited from Contractors of appropriate class for the following works.

NIT No.	**ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ ETN-60/2023-24, dated 17.10.2023**	**ISTRAC/CMG/MAINT/C/ ETN-61/2023-24, dated 17.10.2023**
Name of work	**Providing concrete platform for keeping transportable terminals at SCC Campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru (Civil Works)**	**Refurbishment of NSA Engineers room & NSA Office for NSA Section & replacement of windows for East side of Central Block at SCC Campus, ISTRAC, Bengaluru (Civil works)**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 24.00 Lakhs**	**Rs. 18.31 Lakhs**
Tender document details	**E-tender**	**E-tender**
Period of completion	**02 (Two) months**	**02 (Two) months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**18.10.2023 to 02.11.2023**	
Bid clarification	**18.10.2023 to 02.11.2023**	
Last date and time of reply to bid clarification	**Up to 16.30 hrs. on 03.11.2023**	
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**Up to 14.30 hrs. on 06.11.2023**	
Due date and time of opening of tenders	**11.30 hrs. onwards on 07.11.2023**	
EMD	**Rs. 48,000/-**	**Rs. 36,620/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details from website **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/MECH-CONSULTANT/1757/2023-24 Date: 16-10-2023

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd CALL)
[Two cover System] [Through e-procurement Portal only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd, Bangalore intends to establish a New Pouch Film Plant of capacity 1000MT expandable to 1200MT per month at Rajanukunte limits. KMF intends to avail the services of competent Technical consultant for Planning, Designing, DPR and periodical work inspection for the proposed new Pouch Film Plant which includes Mechanical, Electrical and service facilities of the project

The interested and reputed consultants who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty	EMD (Rs.)	Period of completion
1	Technical consultant service for establishment a Pouch Film Plant of capacity 1000MT expandable to 1200MT per month for Karnataka Milk Fedaration at Rajanukunte limits.	1 Job	3,75,000/-	18 Months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated:18-10-2023 to 27-10-2023 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 27-10-2023 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 30-10-2023 at 4.30 pm.

For Karnataka Co-Op. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

INBRIEF

Congress MLC seeks withdrawal of cases

Congress MLC Dinesh Gooli Gowda has urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take a decision in the State Cabinet for withdrawal of hundreds of cases registered in various police stations against Congress workers and leaders during various protests, including the protest seeking early execution of the Mekedatu balancing reservoir in Kanakapura.

In a memorandum submitted to Mr. Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Tuesday, Mr. Gowda said a large number of cases were registered against the party leaders and workers during the party's protest seeking implementation of the Mekedatu project across the river Cauvery under the BJP government.

He said 29 cases have been registered against party leaders and workers in Ramanagara police station and 37 cases in Ijoor police station in the Ramanagara district against Congress workers. In several other districts, the police have filed cases against farmers, Kannada organisations' members and senior citizens for staging protests during the previous BJP government, the MLC said.

The State Cabinet should take the decision for withdrawal of cases and provide relief from the enquiries from police and court notices, he said.

Sugar production may reduce by about 15 lakh tonnes

Minister for Sugar Shivanand Patil on Tuesday said all sugar factories in Karnataka will commence crushing of sugarcane from October 25 and production of sugar is estimated at 34.51 lakh tonnes in 2023-24 as against 59.81 lakh tonnes during 2022-23.

The area under sugarcane has reduced from 7.5 lakh hectares in 2022-23 to 6.5 lakh hectares in 2023-24, largely owing to drought in the State. There is likelihood of shortage of sugar owing to shortfall in the cane production as erratic rainfall hit sugarcane yields in the country, the Minister said.

The recovery of sugar would also reduce from 9.91% to 8% and the crushing season would began early this year as sugarcane would get dried up, the Minister said. Earlier, the crushing season used to start from November 1.

The sugarcane crushing season would produce 1800 MW of power and 40,000 liters of methanol during 2023-24. Noting that the department has received 65 applications seeking permission to start new factories, the Minister said the permission would be granted to set up a factory at a distance of 25 km from another unit.

Experts' committee submits report to CM on Centre's Bills

An expert committee headed by Minister for Law, Justice and Human Rights, Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation and Tourism H.K. Patil, submitted a study report to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on the Bills – The Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Samhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023, – presented in the Lok Sabha recently by the Union government.

The Chief Minister said that the government will send its opinion about these Bills based on the committee report to the Union government and will discuss this in person with Home Minister Amit Shah at the next meeting.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Patil, explained that the committee held 10 meetings and every section of these bills were studied and discussed in detail. The former Karnataka Hight Court judge P.N. Desai, Law, Justice and Human Rights Department Principal Secretary Prabhavathi M. Hiremath, Parliamentary Affairs and Legislation Department Secretary Sridhar G., and Special Secretary of Law, Justice and Human Rights Department and Director of Prosecution and Government Litigation H.K. Jagadeesh, were among the members of the committee.

Create a 'Kannada atmosphere' in Karnataka, says Siddaramaiah

He unveils the emblem of 'Karnataka Sambhrama-50' to mark the golden jubilee of renaming the Mysore State as Karnataka

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar, Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi (left) at the unveiling of Karnataka Sambrama-50 emblem, at Vidhana Soudha in Bengaluru on Tuesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah emphasised on the need to create an environment in Karnataka where using Kannada in day-to-day transactions is natural and indispensable.

He was speaking after unveiling the emblem of 'Karnataka Sambhrama-50' to mark the golden jubilee of renaming the Mysore State as Karnataka on November 1, 1973.

Also learn Kannada

"Everyone living in Karnataka should also learn to speak Kannada. In the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Telangana or Uttar Pradesh, it is impossible to live by speaking just Kannada, without learning the local language. But you can live in Karnataka even if you don't speak Kannada. That is the difference between our State and other states," he said, adding that this should change.

Coming down on Kannada not being used as administrative language, though it is officially so, he said, "Many of my Ministers and especially officers write notes in English only in the files. English can be used while writing to the Centre and other states, but otherwise it should be done in Kannada."

The Karnataka government has decided to hold the Karnataka Rajyotsava on November 1 on a grand scale to mark the 50th year of renaming the State. He said celebrations should have begun in the run up to the 50th anniversary last year itself. The Chief Minister congratulated Raviraj G. Hulaguru who designed the logo.

Historical context

It was during the tenure of former Chief Minister the late D. Devaraj Urs that Mysore State was named Karnataka. With the inclusion of the districts from erstwhile Nizam's Hyderabad State and Bombay Presidency, many people, including politicians and activists, then felt the need to change the State's name since districts from Mysore region were a part of the State among many others. In a ceremony conducted under the leadership of Devaraj Urs, the new name was announced.

HC declines to quash case against former private secretary of Vinay Kulkarni in murder case

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has declined to quash the criminal case against Somashekar Nyamagouda, who was the then private secretary to former Minister Vinay Kulkarni, in the Yogish Goudar murder case of 2016 in which Mr. Kulkarni himself is an accused.

There was no need for prior sanction for the prosecution of Nyamagouda, who is working as Secretary, APMC, Tiptur, as the acts of criminal conspiracy for murdering, creating a fake tour programme of the then Minister, alleged against him are *prima facie* not part of the discharge of official duties, the High Court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed order while dismissing the petition filed Nyamagouda. He had questioned the order passed in November, 2022, by the special court to deal with criminal cases against MPs and MLAs in rejecting his application for discharging him from the criminal case and taking cognisance of offence against him.

Fake tour programmes

The Central Bureau of Investigation had arraigned the petitioner as accused number-21 in the supplementary charge sheet and Mr. Kulkarni as accused number-15. It was alleged that the petitioner had created a fake tour programme to New Delhi and atravel itinerary of then Minister Kulkarni during June, 2016, to show that the Minister was not in Karnataka during that particular period even though Mr. Kulkarni did not travel to New Delhi. "...acts committed by the petitioner are not using the position of him being a public servant, but misusing the position of him being a public servant..," the High Court said.

Clarifying that its observations were limited for deciding this petition, the High Court said that it is open to the petitioner to establish during the trial that alleged acts were part of his official duty and seek necessary directions from the special court.

State seeks pending dues from Centre under MGNREGA to help mitigate drought situation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As 216 taluks in Karnataka are reeling under drought, the Congress government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has requested the Centre to release the pending Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme wage component at the earliest, for ensuring effective implementation of the job scheme.

Letter to the Centre

Karnataka Chief Secretary Vandita Sharma has written to Shailesh Kumar Singh, Secretary, Union Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), and said that wage release to Karnataka is due from MoRD since August 29, 2023, which amounts to ₹478.46 crore. The last wage grant released to the State government was on September 24 for ₹1.55 crore for August and September.

The last wage grant released to the State was on September 24 for ₹1.55 crore for August and September. FILE PHOTO

The State government's Rural Development Commissionerate has submitted Utilisation Certificates and Annual Audited accounts to the MoRD for the current and previous year, the Chief Secretary said in the letter.

Dependence on scheme

"Because of the drought situation, rural labourers are highly dependent on MGNREGA jobs for their livelihood," Ms. Sharma said. She added that the main objective of the scheme is to reduce the number of migrants moving from rural to urban areas and to provide job opportunities for them at their residences. Because of delays in the payment of wages, labourers are unable to meet their daily needs and have started migrating from rural to urban areas seeking jobs, she pointed out.

I-T raids: BJP demands probe by CBI to trace the route of money

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP that staged a dharna throughout the State for the second day on Tuesday calling for the resignation of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, demanded a CBI probe into the recent I-T raids in Bengaluru unearthing crores of unaccounted money and valuables.

Addressing the BJP activists who staged a protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru, former Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda maintained that the CBI probe was a must to trace the "unseen hands" behind the money that was seized in the raids.

Mr. Gowda alleged that the seized money was a commission that was paid by contractors in return for the release of their pending bills to the tune of ₹650 crore.

Former Chief Minister D.V. Sadananda Gowda, former Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan, and others protesting against the State government at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Tuesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Accusing the Congress of indulging in large scale corruption in the State, Mr. Gowda alleged that the CM and Dy.CM were trying to cover up the episode. BJP activists staged protests in all the Assembly constituencies.

'Money belongs to BJP'

Meanwhile, refuting the allegations, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar claimed the unaccounted cash and assets unearthed in the Income Tax department's raids belonged to BJP leaders.

"The BJP is the foundation of corruption, that is why the people of Karnataka voted against them. Money that has been found is linked to BJP leaders and it is nowhere connected to the Congress government," he told a private channel.

On October 12, the Income Tax Department conducted searches in premises linked to government contractors and real estate developers in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, New Delhi and recovered unaccounted cash worth approximately ₹94 crore and gold and diamond jewellery of over ₹8 crore.

ED carries out search operations at private firm

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) carried out search operations on Tuesday under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA), at five locations of Bengaluru, in the case of Opto Circuits India Ltd. and related persons in a bank fraud case.

The ED initiated the investigation on the basis of an FIR registered by the CBI against Opto Circuits India Ltd. and its promoters and directors, for alleged misappropriation and diversion of a loan from a consortium of eight banks which has outstanding liabilities to the tune of ₹883.03 crore.

"The ED investigation revealed that the promoters and directors of Opto Circuits India Ltd. had forged and fabricated the accounts of the company to avail a loan from the banks. Further, the loan amount was diverted in the form of investment in subsidiaries in India and foreign countries. The directors and promoters of Opto Circuits India Ltd. forged and falsified the financial statements of the company by showing a healthy position on the balance sheet, by putting a huge amount of trade receivables which were not backed by the commensurate credit-worthiness of the buyers," said an ED release.

In this manner, Opto Circuits India Ltd. misappropriated and diverted the loan facility from the banks, thereby causing a huge loss to the banks, the ED added.

MLA's supporters oppose delay in appointment to boards

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In an embarrassment to the Congress government, the supporters of Congress MLA Abbayya Prasad (Hubbballi-Dharwad East) on Tuesday staged a protest in front of the Chief Minister's official residence Krishna in Bengaluru opposing the delay in the appointment of legislators to government-owned boards and corporations.

Supporters of Mr. Prasad demanded early appointment of their leader to one of the boards/corporations. The party workers, who have played a critical role in electing the Congress government, have been upset over Chief Minister Siddaramaiah not appointing heads to boards and corporations even after more than four months of coming to power.

Sources said that while legislators demanded a higher share in the 80-odd boards/corporations, the party leaders said the government should reward them for their work during the elections. MLAs denied Cabinet berths have been lobbying hard to head the boards/corporations, sources said. Later, Mr. Prasad and Mr. Siddaramaiah held a meeting and the latter promised early appointment of legislators to the boards/corporations, sources said.

TIDEL PARK LTD.
(An ISO 9001/14001/45001 Company)
CIN No.U74999TN1997PLC039523
No.4, RAJIV GANDHI SALAI, TARAMANI, CHENNAI - 600 113
Phone: 044 2254 0500 / 501 Mail: tenders@tidelpark.com www.tidelpark.com

Notice No: TIDEL/2023-2024/09

TIDEL invites "e-Tender for Establishment of Plug & Play Manufacturing Unit with all Infrastructure Facilities in Plot No. L-6, Vallam Vadagal, Aerospace Park, Sriperumbudur, Kancheepuram district.

For more details and participation in the above e-Tender, please visit the website www.tntenders.gov.in. Last date for online submission of duly filled in tender documents is **3.00 p.m. on 16.11.2023.** TIDEL reserves the right to accept / reject any one / all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPR/5663/TENDER/2023 **Managing Director**

This photography project connects Bengaluru and Glasgow

Ideas around identity, both individual and collective, are reflected in every photograph on display at 'Inheritance', an exhibition that has 13 people showcasing their work

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

The cluster of six portraits which collectively make up *Queer Samsara*, one of the exhibits at the ongoing *Inheritance* exhibition at Kanike Studios in Bengaluru's Cooke Town, has a retro, otherworldly feel to it, encapsulating ideas of transience and ephemerality.

Aryan Gulati, the photographer, says that the artwork, described as bearing witness to the birth, death and rebirth of desi queerness, comes from a deeply personal space.

Performing queerness

"I feel everyone performs different identities, and for me, it is performing my queerness," says the Bengaluru-based Gulati (they/them), one of the 13 young South Asians-- exploring shared histories, memories and identities between South Asia and the UK, through photography.

"I feel we do not have enough narratives about queer people, and there are different intersections we need to explore," says Gulati.

Identity and inheritance

Ideas around identity, both individual and collective, are reflected in nearly every photograph on display at this exhibition, the outcome of an international collaboration between The Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) Bengaluru, Kanike, Glasgow Life Museums, and Street Level Photoworks as part of the British Council's Our Shared Cultural Heritage (OSCH) programme.

Interestingly, the same body of work is being showcased in different iterations across four spaces: Kanike and the Museum of Art & Photography (MAP) in Bengaluru and the Glasgow Life Museums and Street Level Photoworks in the UK. And while there are minor variations linked to the space chosen, the core of it remains the same.

Young people

As the MAP website puts it, the works in this exhibition include a diversity of approaches from portraiture and staged photography to documentary to interrogate how identities are constructed and reconstructed, perceived and imagined, contested and embraced. "They explore themes of family and cultural history, migration, place, class, gender identity, conventions of social life and notions of community - unpeeling the many layers of identity, customs, beliefs and values we inherit," it states.

Visitors engaging with the display on the opening night of 'Inheritance'. (Below from left) Bengaluru participants of the project, and one of the installations at the exhibition. VIVEK MUTHURAMALIGAM

According to Shilpa Vijayakrishnan, Head of Education & Outreach at MAP, this Indo-UK collaborative project's main objective is to bring young people to the fold of museums, heritage, and art spaces. "A lot of young people feel alienated from these spaces," she says. The various institutions involved in this project were keen to do this via a skill-building component. In January this year, there was a public call-out in Bengaluru and Glasgow, asking young people between the ages of 16 and 25 who wanted to hone their photography skills to apply.

"We both took the same approach, looking for participants who had little or no exposure to photography," says Vijayakrishnan, adding that the idea was to give someone an opportunity to upskill themselves, in particularly, those who may have not had such exposure or opportunities before.

Skill-building process

This was followed by an active skill-building process where both sets of young people were taken through a series of workshops.

"We started off by focusing on getting local partners and making a training schedule on what sort of training they would receive," she says, with participants in both cities going through a series of training activities, including online lectures and in-person workshops.

Diversity on display

After around three months of training, the young people were given around two-and-a-half months to develop their projects.

While these projects took shape under the mentorship of artist collaborators in both cities, the final creative decisions lay with the participants, evident from the diversity of mediums and stories on display at Kanike. Take, for instance, Malini Chakrabarty's *Diaspora Laal*, a series of vibrant photographs that attempt to merge two worlds–India and Scotland– "a visual chronicle of the human journey across continents, echoing the universal desire for belonging, understanding and the shared colours of life," as the exhibit's label puts it.

Or Amina Bashir's haunting *Teri Jaagah*, a meditation on traditional gender roles told through a series of images representing the artist's mother's migration from her home in Pakistan to the alien country of Scotland.

Then there is Roshni Advani's *Ootak Baa*, which documents the relationship between food and belonging; Chrislyn Naysha Pereira's *Beauty Queens Eat Red Onions*, which brings together aspects of heritage, race and beauty; and Tanvi Mallapur's *Stitching Memories*, a cyanotype on embroidered cloth, which serves as an ode to the inherited objects, memories and cultural traditions that shape one's identity.

Grandmom's memories

Mallapur, who has chosen to use Kasuti embroidery in this installation, says that she was inspired by a 50-year-old piece of cloth belonging to her grandmother that she had worked on while trying to learn Kasuti. "It was a practice piece, but really beautiful," says Mallapur, whose discovery led her to think about all the things inherited from her family, including her love for any form of art.

"I get my creative genes from my mother and grandmother. Their incredible artistic talent has shaped me."

Inheritance is being showcased at Kanike Studios, Bengaluru & Sasken Digital Gallery, MAP, Bengaluru, till October 22.

Rotary Club's film festival to encourage women to work behind the camera

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Rotary Club of Bangalore (RCB), in a bid to influence women to take up cinematic jobs behind the camera, is bringing to Bengaluru *RCB International Film Festival for a Cause* in the first week of November. The club recently organised a panel discussion consisting of stalwarts of the Kannada film industry to highlight the need for women's talent in the cinema field, in the run up to the film festival.

The panelists were renowned film-makers Dr. Girish Kasaravalli, Champa Shetty and B.S. Lingadevaru, besides Vidyashankar, who moderated the evening's proceedings.

Speaking at the discussion, Mr. Vidyashankar put forth RCB's initiative of organising the festival in a city where there is a film festival every month, and how this festival highlights on bringing women to a field where there is opportunity.

Dr. Girish Kasaravalli encouraged the initiative and gave a perspective of a content-oriented film. The filmmaker highlighted the need to identify the departments where women can be employed and work efficiently.

Mr. Kasaravalli said sound engineering and colouring is an areas where women can work with the right kind of skill and training.

Other opportunities he highlighted for women in the cinema industry include story, screenplay, dialogue-writing, lyrics, and translating.

Champa Shetty on the other hand said usually in a production, there are 2% to 5% women working behind the camera, but in her production, there were more than 20%. Ms. Shetty said that it was not intentional, but she felt it was easier working with women. Ms Shetty said that the lack of women technicians in the film world could be due to families that think it is taboo to work in the cinema industry.

The *RCB International Film Festival for a Cause* will be held on November 3 and 4, at the Bangalore International Centre (BIC), Domlur.

IISc study shows that small chemical change can boost bioavailability of drug molecules

The study says like any protein, macrocyclic peptides are highly susceptible to digestive enzymes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Indian Institute of Science researchers have demonstrated a novel method for improving the pharmacokinetic properties of macrocyclic peptides - drug molecules that are pursued heavily by pharmaceutical industries worldwide.

The IISc team from the Molecular Biophysics Unit (MBU), in collaboration with Anthem Biosciences, has demonstrated that substituting just a single atom - oxygen with sulphur - in the backbone of a macrocyclic peptide can make it more resistant to digestive enzymes and can increase its permeability through cell membranes, boosting its bioavailability.

Internal environment

According to IISc, the effectiveness of any drug molecule depends on how well it interacts with the internal environment inside our body. Its pharmacokinetic properties determine how successfully it escapes degrading enzymes as it travels through the digestive system or the bloodstream, crosses biological barriers like the cell membrane, and reaches the desired target.

The Indian Institute of Science building in Bengaluru.

"A vast majority of today's medicines are made up of small molecules taken orally as pills. Larger molecules like monoclonal antibodies are much more specific and effective but must be injected. Scientists have, therefore, turned to macrocyclic peptides, chains of amino acid residues attached to each other via amide bonds, which are engineered to form circular structures. These compounds combine the best of both small and large pharmaceutical molecules," IISc said.

Susceptible to digestive enzymes

However, like any protein, macrocyclic peptides are highly susceptible to digestive enzymes. They also find it hard to cross cell membranes, which are made up of lipids, because they are water-loving molecules. The amide (CO-NH) bonds in these peptides interact with surrounding water molecules via relatively weaker bonds called hydrogen bonds.

"For peptides to pass through a lipid membrane, they must reduce their hydrogen bonding with water. They must become a little more oil-loving (lipophilic). Currently, there are no concrete methods besides N-methylation to improve the pharmacokinetic properties of macrocyclic peptides," said Jayanta Chatterjee, Professor at MBU and corresponding author of the study.

Pritha Ghosh, former PhD student at MBU and first author, said that the current N-methylation strategy requires exchanging a hydrogen atom from the amide bond with a methyl group. This prevents hydrogen bond formation between the nitrogen atom from the amide bond and the surrounding water, making it easier for the peptide to pass through the lipid membrane.

However, such a modification has been shown to affect the binding of the peptide to its target by making it too flexible and less specific.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 18, 1973

Mysore Minister Pleads for Vegetarianism

Bangalore, Oct. 17: The Mysore Minister for Education, Mr. A.R. Badrinarayan, appealed to the people to-day to propagate the cause of vegetarianism. Inaugurating the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Week, got up by the State branch of the SPCA, here to-day, the Minister said that there was a need to show kindness and sympathy towards animals. While there was some sympathy shown to sick and suffering animals, healthy animals were unlucky as they were killed for human consumption. "If you truly love animals, you will not eat them," he said.

It may be recalled that the Chief Minister of Mysore, Mr. D. Devaraj Urs, said that the number of beef and pork eaters was increasing.

Obscene Dances: Commissioner's Warning

Bangalore, Oct. 17: The City Police would come down heavily upon establishments which organised obscene dances and gambling, the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Chandrashekar, told newsmen to-day. He said that certain people made a profitable living out of staging indecent dances. Under the cover of organising 'a get-together' gambling and obscene dances were being carried out he said. The Commissioner has sought the help of citizens to bring to the notice of the police 'recreation clubs' and other organisations which conducted such business. Mr. Chandrashekar said that at traffic signals the motorists were harassed by beggars.

Ssaffron
The restaurant at Shangri-La, Bengaluru is hosting a Navratri festive *thali* with an all-vegetarian menu. The meal commences with *Shakarkand Aur Anar Ki Chaat* and *Phaldari salad*, followed by crispy *Sabudana Vada* and Chef Pankaj's creation, *Kache Kele Ki Tikki*. The *vrat*-friendly *thali* also includes dishes such as *Makhane Kaju Ki Sabzi, Dahi Aaloo, Khatta Meetha Kaddu*, and *Dabi Sukhi Arbi*, served alongside staples such as *Sabudana Khichdi and Singhade Ki Poori*. To satisfy sweet cravings, diners can try *Samvat Chawal Kheer* and Coconut *Laddoos*. For bookings, call +91 80 4512 6100.

When: October 15-23
Cost: ₹1,600 plus taxes

Lapis
The all-day dining restaurant at The Oberoi, Bengaluru, presents a Navratri *vrat* feast that draws inspiration from the diverse culinary offerings found in India's temples. These dishes are traditionally offered to deities before being served to devotees following worship rituals.

The menu, called *Prashadam Uphar*, features dishes from various temples across India. Highlights include *Gathiya aur boondi* from Jalaram temple in Virpur, *Dalma* from Jagannath Puri temple, *Sarson ka raita* from Dev Bhoomi in Uttarakhand, Krishna *kadi* from Brajbhoomi in Uttar Pradesh, *khatte meethe seetaphal* from Krishna Vatika in Uttar Pradesh, *Langar wale chole* from Amritsar's Golden Temple, *Urad chane di daal* from Bade Mandir in Delhi, *Surkh dal ki kachori* from Vaishno Devi temple in Jammu & Kashmir, and *Shrikhand aur khaja* from Somnath temple in Gujarat. To reserve a *thali*, call +91 80 2558 5858.

When: October 15-24
Cost: ₹2,200 plus taxes

Fasting feasts

Finding the right Navratri *vrat* ingredients or wrestling with *singhade ka aata*? In Bengaluru, you're in luck as restaurants offer Navratri *vrat thalis* this festive season

Swathi Nair

Navratri is a nine-night festival that honours the divine feminine energy, particularly the goddess Durga. Observed by Hindus across the country, this festival is marked by fasting, worship and garba dancing at night. Navratri typically falls in October, with its exact dates varying each year. This year, Navratri is being celebrated from October 15 to 24. It's a time when many people choose to observe *vrat* (fasting) as an expression of their devotion.

However, amidst the spiritual rhythms and cultural celebrations, a key aspect of Navratri is the feast. The fasting, or *vrat*, during Navratri, is not just about deprivation but about choosing a diet that aligns with the spirit of the festival. Fasting-approved ingredients such as *samai*, pumpkin, *makhana*, paneer, and *sabudana* come to the forefront during this period.

Struggling to find the right *vrat* ingredients or failing to make that perfect *puri* with *singhade ka aata*? If you're in Bengaluru, you're in luck. Restaurants in the city are now offering Navratri vrat thalis throughout the festive season. These are specially prepared meals that follow Navratri fasting rules, making it easier for you to enjoy a Navratri feast without the hassle. These thalis include unique ingredients and fasting-approved items, often with flavours inspired by local traditions and temples.

Here's a look at some of the best places in Bengaluru to find these Navratri vrat thalis:

Purani Dilli By Anand Sweets
This restaurant offers a Navratri *vrat thali* made with fasting-approved ingredients, including *samai*, pumpkin, *makhana*, paneer, and *sabudana*. The thali is seasoned with pink salt and features dishes such as *Kuttu Atta Ki Puri, Samak Chawal, Shahi Paneer Sabzi, Pumpkin Sabzi, Aarbi Aachar, Makhana Kheer,* salad, *Dry Aloo* Chips and *raita*. Customers can also opt for individual *vrat* dishes if they prefer a lighter meal. Some of the *vrat* favourites on the menu include *Adraki Paneer Tikka* and *chaats such as Tava Aloo Chaat, Sabudana Aloo Tikki Chaat,* and *Singhara Papdi Chaat*. The *vrat thali* is available at their Whitefield and Sarjapur locations. For bookings, call +91 93531 42319/+91 93531 39813.

When: October 15-24
Cost: ₹350 plus taxes

Khandani Rajdhani
The *Navratri* thali at Khandan Rajdhani is designed for fasting devotees and relies on *Sendha Namak* (rock salt) in accordance with fasting traditions. This special thali features a range of *satvik* dishes, including fruit salad, *farsan*, vegetarian curries, and freshly made *puris* or *Thali Peth* crafted from *Rajgira* or *Kuttu Atta*. Complementing these dishes are crispy *papads*, *Rajgira* rice, and a *Kadhi*. The spread also includes *dal*, fruit curd, and *Khopra Chutney*.

The thali boasts a selection of sweets, such as *Fruit Shrikhand* and *Halwa* and savoury items such as *Farali Pattice*, *Kuttu Ke Pakode*, *Kaccha Kela Nu Shak* and *Ratalu Nu Kis*. The restaurant's *vrat thali* also includes *Sabudana Papad*, *Potato Papad*, *Kela Chips and Tomato Saar*. Contact 080 2268 2092 for reservations.

When: October 15-23
Cost: ₹625 plus taxes

M-café
The restaurant at the Marriott Hotel, in Whitefield, presents a specially curated Navratri *thali*. This *thali* features a diverse selection of dishes that reflect the festive spirit and the richness of Indian cuisine. The menu includes both traditional Navratri favourites and some modern takes, such as *sabudana aur sprout ki tikki*, Gujarati *kadhi*, and *vrat ki puri*. Dessert options in the *thali* include delights such as fruit *rabadi* and creamy *vrat ki chawal ki phirni,* providing a sweet conclusion to the meal. To make your reservations, call +91 99288 40527.

When: October 15-24
Cost: ₹1,500 plus taxes

Epic adaptation A still from the play *An Iliad*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Reinterpretation of a classic

Jagriti Theatre is presenting *An Iliad* by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare, brought to life by actors Patty Gallagher and Jake Sorgen, under the direction of Kirsten Brandt. This modern adaptation of Homer's epic poem, *The Iliad*, aims to take the audience on a visceral journey into the heart of conflict, war, and the enduring questions of human nature.

An Iliad places the audience at the tipping point of the Greek-Trojan war, where Achilles and Agamemnon are at odds, and the Trojan prince Hector valiantly defends his city. This adaptation delves deep into themes of honour, loyalty, the capriciousness of the gods, and the destructive power of rage and grief. It explores the timeless human fascination with war and glory, and the delicate balance between honour and morality.

Kirsten says the performance poignantly connects the play's themes to the contemporary world, with ongoing conflicts serving as a sobering reminder of the destructive potential of intractable rage. She implores the audience to reflect on these ancient tales and to hope for a world where the "song of rage" is sung for the last time.

The performance, which is accompanied by a live score, expertly juxtaposes the ancient tale with the modern day, offering a unique and engaging perspective on the timeless power of storytelling.

The play explores the timeless human fascination with war and glory, and honour and morality

An Iliad aims to entertain and challenge its audience, leaving them with a profound sense of reflection on the enduring human struggles depicted in this classic story.

The play will be performed at Jagriti Theatre from November 3-12, with multiple showtimes. Tickets on bookmyshow.com.

The history of the Navratri vrat thali

Swathi Nair

Navratri, the nine-night Hindu festival, is far more than a celebration; it is a profound spiritual voyage entwined with devout fasting and lively festivities, all dedicated to the worship of the goddess Durga in her myriad divine forms. Typically celebrated in the Hindu month of Ashwin, this festival symbolises the perennial triumph of good over evil, epitomised in the veneration of the nine incarnations of Durga.

However, Navratri's fasting transcends mere dietary restrictions; it embodies a deep sense of devotion and discipline. Devotees meticulously adhere to a range of food limitations, abstaining from grains, specific vegetables, table salt, and an array of spices.

"A traditional Navratri *vrat thali* comprises *Sabudana Khichdi, Kuttu ki Roti, Singhara Atta Puris, Rajgira Paratha*, plain yoghurt, fruit salad, *Vrat Ke Aloo*, coconut chutney, kheer (prepared with buckwheat or amaranth), fresh fruits (bananas, apples, pomegranates), and dry fruits and nuts (almonds, cashews, raisins)," notes Ganesh Amkar, executive sous chef, Courtyard by Marriott Mumbai International Airport who is hosting a vrat thali at his restaurant for the festive season.

The historical origins of the Navratri *vrat thali*, however, remain somewhat elusive. As noted food historian and academic Pushpesh Pant elucidates, "Orthodox Hindus fasted according to family tradition, consuming prescribed cereal-less, Satvik food, primarily *phalahar* (fruit)-based meals. However, the concept of a formal *thali* as we know it today did not exist."

In the past, Navratri fasting often involved dishes crafted from ingredients such as buckwheat, water chestnut (Singhada), makhana, and potatoes. The fast wasn't uniformly observed by all family members nor was it followed throughout the entire nine days of Navratri, the historian notes.

Navratri's fasting transcends dietary restrictions; it embodies a deep sense of devotion and disciplines

Food for the body and soul
A Navratri *vrat thali.* SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The 1970s witnessed a significant transformation in the concept of the Navratri thali. This era was marked by the ascendance of religious identities and the fashionable embrace of rituals and customs among those who lived in cities.

While many often perceive Navratri as a Gujarati festival with a Gujarati *thali*, archaeologist and culinary anthropologist Kurush F Dalal debunks this notion, stating, "That is a misconception. There's a Navratri thali in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, and in Bengal, for the Durga pujo, a notably non-vegetarian thali is served, whereas in Gujarat, it's a strictly vegetarian affair."

"If you mention a non-vegetarian *thali* to a Gujarati, he or she won't believe you. Even some regions of Bihar incorporate meat in their Navratri thali. Hence, the constituents of a Navratri thali truly vary across the country," he elaborates.

In the modern urban landscape, a notable transformation in dining preferences among many Indians has emerged. There's a growing inclination towards ordering vrat thalis or dining out, moving away from the traditional practice of preparing all vrat food at home.

This shift has also been embraced by restaurants, as Pushpesh points out, "For restaurants, it's a commercial opportunity to keep the cash registers ringing when many guests, even those who are not fasting, choose to avoid meat and fish during Navratri."

In 2016, Domino's introduced a special vegetarian pizza during Navratri, made with water-chestnut and white millet flours. The pizza featured mozzarella cheese with rock salt substituting for common salt, and a topping of tomatoes, paneer, and crunchy sabudana. The tomato sauce was prepared without onions and garlic, adhering to fasting constraints, the company emphasised.

As we savour these inventive Navratri *vrat thalis*, we see that the Navratri thali is more than just a meal – it's a reflection of India's multifaceted culinary heritage, with each year adding new chapters to its evolving story.

CITYBEATS

Friends are forever

Ongoing
Courtyard by Marriott Bengaluru ORR is hosting three dining events throughout this month – Wednesday Grills at the Momo Cafe, BFF nights by the Pool every Thursday, and Eat, Drink and More at the Momo Cafe every Friday. *For reservations and further details, call +91 88841 61699 or +91 74067 77973 or +91 95136 53156.*

Navigating the stars

October 20
Presented by the Indian Music Experience, 'Songfarers at Sea' is a performance that will feature MD Pallavi, Bindhumalini Narayanaswamy and Vedanth Bharadwaj. Finding themselves lost at sea, these artistes uses songs and stories to navigate their way to the future.

At the Indian Music Experience Museum, JP Nagar, from 6 pm onwards. Entry free.

Sip of Cambodia

Ongoing
Khmer Kitchen, a Cambodian restaurant in the city has launch an all-new cocktail menu, featuring 20 unique creations such as the Khmer Tea Pot which is a harmonious blend of gin, Thai jasmine, hibiscus tea, and citrusy notes. All the cocktails have been inspired by traditional Asian flavours.

At Khmer Kitchen, J P Nagar.

KCR govt. has pushed Telangana into high debt: Piyush Goyal

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Tuesday accused the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government led by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao of being "corrupt and discriminating on the basis of caste and religion, even while practising appeasement politics", and taking Telangana backward. The State is scheduled to go to the polls on November 30.

"People of Telangana are intelligent enough to know the reality and have decided to send the regime packing and give their support for the BJP government in the forthcoming elections as they are enthused by the Narendra Modi government's record at the Centre in ensuring corruption-free, development-oriented governance," said Mr. Goyal while addressing a meeting of party cadre here.

He said the BRS government due to corruption had pushed the State into high debt without scope for taking up any new development projects.

"We have to expose the misdeeds of KCR, KTR [Minister K.T. Rama Rao] and Kavitha [BRS MLC] by knocking on the doors of every single family. This government did not cooperate with the Centre and refused to implement the free housing scheme and farmer insurance and scheme for encouraging new entrepreneurs," the Union Minister alleged.

Skill development scam: SC denies interim bail to Naidu

Court reserves verdict on Naidu's plea to quash criminal proceedings against him; he argued that corruption charges against him would fail for lack of sanction under Prevention of Corruption Act

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved verdict on a plea by former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to quash criminal proceedings against him in the skill development scam case.

A Bench headed by Justice Aniruddha Bose, while wrapping up the case for judgment, did not agree with a plea raised by Mr. Naidu's counsel, senior advocate Harish Salve, to grant his client an interim bail.

Mr. Naidu has argued that corruption charges against him would fail for lack of sanction under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The State has countered that the case against Mr. Naidu was a "clear-cut" one of embezzlement and not remotely related to his duties of public office.

N. Chandrababu Naidu

The State has argued that Mr. Naidu cannot avail the protection of Section 17A, which mandates prior sanction for investigation, under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Mr. Salve has contended that Section 17A was a protection tailored for public servants against regime revenge.

He had submitted that no sanction was received under Section 17A before suddenly initiating prosecution against Mr. Naidu by registering an FIR, 21 months ago.

The counsel had said the fundamental right of the TDP leader was violated. His arrest was illegal. Mr. Salve quoted a recent judgment of the top court which said a remand order could be set aside if the arrest was illegally made.

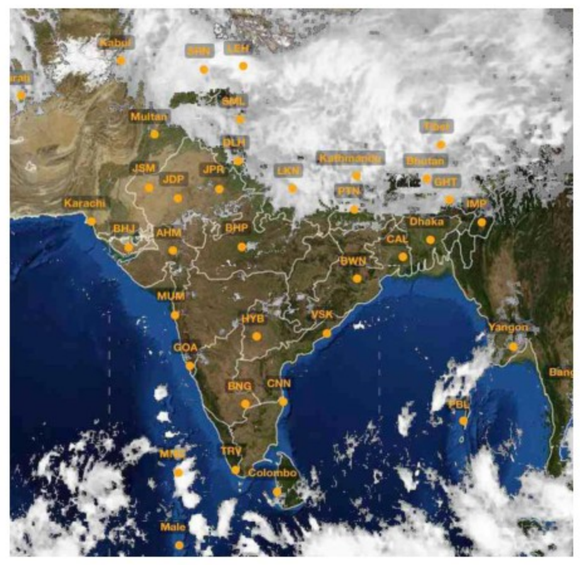
The case involves alleged misappropriations made in the process of establishment of skill development institutions by Andhra Pradesh State Skill Development Corporation in collaboration with private companies.

Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh High Court on Tuesday adjourned the hearing of a separate petition filed by Mr. Naidu seeking bail in the skill development scam. The court posted the matter for hearing to October 19.

(With inputs from Vijayawada)

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Squally weather likely over south & adjoining central Arabian Sea

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.2	22.2	Kozhikode	0.2	34.8	24.9
Ahmedabad	—	35.4	24.4	Kurnool	—	37.1	24.7
Aizawl	—	24.0	17.9	Lucknow	5.8	27.7	19.1
Allahabad	—	32.4	19.8	Madurai	36	32.6	23.5
Bengaluru	—	30.5	21.1	Mangaluru	52	30.2	23.1
Bhopal	—	33.2	19.8	Mumbai	—	34.6	26.2
Bhubaneswar	—	33.7	23.4	Mysuru	—	32.4	23.4
Chandigarh	13	27.8	16.7	New Delhi	5	26.2	17.2
Chennai	0.2	33.1	25.7	Patna	5	31.2	20.2
Coimbatore	69	32.8	21.2	Port Blair	1	31.8	25.7
Dehradun	22	28.6	14.4	Puducherry	—	34.2	25.4
Gangtok	—	20.0	14.2	Pune	—	34.4	21.0
Goa	0.4	31.3	23.6	Raipur	—	34.5	22.6
Guwahati	—	33.2	21.8	Ranchi	—	31.0	19.5
Hubballi	—	31.0	22.0	Shillong	—	26.0	14.1
Hyderabad	—	33.3	22.5	Shimla	—	22.4	9.7
Imphal	—	30.1	18.1	Srinagar	0.6	11.6	6.7
Jaipur	0.6	30.4	20.2	Thiruvananthapuram	25	32.1	23.9
Kochi	2	31.2	25.2	Tiruchi	13	32.8	24.0
Kohima	—	20.0	13.4	Vijayawada	—	33.0	24.8
Kolkata	—	33.4	25.1	Visakhapatnam	—	35.0	24.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	89	47	127	127	
Bengaluru	6	34	33	116	117	
Chennai	4	21	67	113	87	
Delhi	14	23	24	110	108	
Hyderabad	11	9	42	126	127	
Kolkata	11	38	28	244	144	
Lucknow	6	42	26	21	43	
Mumbai	26	21	75	347	339	
Pune	132	219	113	178	115	
Visakhapatnam	7	60	41	180	205	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Ulhasnagar, Maharashtra recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 304 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 26

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Kerala to constitute commission for welfare of senior citizens: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Kerala plans to constitute a commission for senior citizens which will address issues related to the welfare of the elderly in the State, said Minister of Higher Education and Social Justice R. Bindu in Kochi on Tuesday.

She was speaking at the inauguration of a function to distribute certificates to those who had completed the Naipunya Nagaram programme being implemented by the Ernakulam district panchayat to impart hi-tech skills to the elderly.

She said that many programmes are being implemented in Kerala for the welfare of the elderly

The Minister said that several programmes are being implemented in Kerala for the welfare of the elderly. It is important that the rich experience of senior citizens are utilised. Memory clinics and Vayomithram and Vayojana Parks programmes are also being set up in the State.

The Minister said that no modern life is possible without knowledge of digital technology as we live in the age of artificial intelligence (AI). It is a sine qua non for all to understand the new technologies and use them. The Naipunya Nagaram programme, in this way, is relevant and contemporary in its outlook, she said.

Ms. Bindu congratulated the district panchayat which conceived such a programme and implemented it.

A total of 740 people have completed the programme from the municipalities and panchayats in Ernakulam district.

14 killed in 2 accidents at fireworks units in T.N.

L. Srikrishna
VIRUDHUNAGAR

Fourteen workers, including 11 women, were killed in two accidents at private fireworks units in Virudhunagar district on Tuesday.

In the first accident at Rengapalayam, 13 people were killed.

In the other incident at a fireworks unit in Kichanayakanpatti, a 55-year-old man died on the spot.

Fire and Rescue Services officials from multiple locations rushed to the two spots around 2 p.m. According to preliminary inquiries, the workers were engaged in packing at the unit belonging to Sundaramurthi in Rengapalayam. They were reportedly testing some of the newly produced crackers. In the process, a blast occurred in which the workers in the adjacent room were burnt alive.

An official said the risky way of handling the crackers appeared to be the primary reason for the accident.

Kochi passport office issues advisory

M.P. Praveen
KOCHI

Taking note of an evolving pattern of online fraud targeting passport applicants and those seeking other services related to passport seva kendras, the Regional Passport Office, Kochi, has issued an advisory asking the public to not fall prey to such online scamsters.

The advisory was issued after it came to notice that some applicants were receiving anonymous calls advising them to click on certain links for dispatch of their passport/police clearance certificate (PCC).

"Applicants are advised to stay alert and not click on suspicious links seeking additional payment for delivery of Passports/PCC. Please be informed that the Passports/PCC are NOT dispatched through any courier agency as it's been sent only through India Post (sic)," said the advisory on X (previously Twitter).

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. Def_PowerCable_SBC_SPGR Date: 10.10.2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Item of Work	Appx. Value
Replacement of defective power cable and provision of HASSDAC power supply Redundancy in Bengaluru-Sampige Road Block sections over Bengaluru divison.	Rs. 1,34,83,918.56/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 15:00 hrs. of 02.11.2023**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Signal and Telecom Engineer, Bengaluru
PUB/447/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/ 2023-24/31 Dated: 06.10.2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Description of Work	Appx. Value
(Re-tender) Outsourcing of TRD maintenance & breakdown activities Tolahunse-Kunigal, Birur-Kumsi, Mysuru-Yeliyur, Mysuru-Chamarajanagar and Hassan-Arsikere sections for a period of 2 years.	Rs. 9,91,43,818.46

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 hrs. of 27.10.2023**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer, Mysuru
PUB/440/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our client **Mr. Manoj Kumar Mech, Son of Sri. Joya Mech,** represents that the **Original Sale Deed** dated 21.12.2001, registered as Document No.11382/2001-02, Vol. 2269, Pages 112-126 of Book I, in the office of the Sub-Registrar K.R.Puram, B'lore pertaining to Property No.157, presently within the limits of BBMP Khata (earlier Khata No.479/01/02) measuring East 49'5", West 49'5", North 53', South 53', totally measuring 2600 Square feet in the layout known as **"Dream Meadows"**, formed out of Converted Land in Sy.No.59 (converted vide Official Memorandum No.B.Dis.ALN.SR(SA);100/98-99), situated at **Kundalahalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk** has been lost/misplaced and not mortgaged/pledged.
Person/s in possession of the aforesaid document may return the same to us or any one having any claim over the said Property or any other claims may lodge their objections in writing within **7 days** from this day to the undersigned.
Geetha Halliyal, Advocate
42 High Street, No.775, 2nd Floor, 100 feet Road, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038, Ph:9980519476
Bangalore Date: 17.10.2023

COMPANY CLOSURE NOTICE
Public is hereby notified of the voluntary winding up and closure of **ENTERPRISEQUOTIENT DATA ANALYTICS LLP** having Company PAN AAFFE4771M, LLP ID AAE-8590 and Registered Office at 212 Sobha Hibiscus, Sarjapura Outer Ring Road, Bellandur, Bengaluru - 560 103.
Sd/- Mukund Kumar, Managing Partner
Sd/- Ambar Nag, Managing Partner

PUNJAB ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, SOLAR PASSIVE COMPLEX, PLOT NO. 1 & 2, SECTOR 33-D, CHANDIGARH. PHONE: 0172-2663328, 2663382 Website - www.peda.gov.in
PUBLIC NOTICE
Subject: Seeking Comments / Suggestions on draft Green Hydrogen Policy for the State of Punjab.
Punjab Energy Development Agency (PEDA), being the State Nodal Agency of Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, Govt. of India for the promotion of Renewable Energy in the State has framed a draft Green Hydrogen Policy for promotion of Green Hydrogen Eco-system in the State.
Draft Green Hydrogen Policy has been uploaded on PEDA website: www.peda.gov.in for seeking comments/suggestions of the stakeholders and general public. The comments/ suggestions, if any, may please be sent to PEDA by post or through email: kulbirsingh@peda.gov.in or rohit.kumar945@punjab.gov.in by 5th November, 2023.
NA/12/19656/2023/28932 CEO PEDA

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Mechanical Engg., Dept., K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027. Tele No: 080-22537519
NO: BMTC/2023-24/SE0152 Dated: 17.10.2023
SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through e-procurement mode only)
(1) BMTC invites Tender through E-Procurement Portal for Selection of Service Provider for Procurement, Operation and Maintenance of 320 Nos. low floor, 400mm floor height City type AC Electric Buses on Gross Cost Contract (GCC) Model. **(2)** Last Date for Bid Submission in e-procurement portal on **31.10.2023 at 17:30 Hours.** Further, any addendum/corrigendum in respect of changes in calendar of events, scope, other tender terms & conditions etc., will be uploaded/Published through e-portal only. **NOTE:** Interested Bidders need to register in the GoK e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for details. In case of further assistance, the bidders may contact e-procurement Help Desk for support Ph:080-46010000 or 080-68948777 or email at **eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com**. Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. E-mail to **eprocurementhelpdesk@gmail.com** for further information if required.
Sd/- CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER (Tender Inviting Authority)

ODISHA MINING CORPORATION LIMITED
OMC House, Bhubaneswar-751001, Odisha
CIN: U13100OR1956SGC000313, www.omcltd.in
OMC Mining Happiness | ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES
E - PROCUREMENT NOTICE
Bid document No.: OMC/e-Proc/CMC/129/2023 dated 18.10.2023

#	Parameter	Name
1	Name of Work	Engagement of Agency for Development, Installation, Commissioning, Operation and Maintenance of Investment Management Application System for OMC Limited.
2	Availability of tender document	Date : 18.10.2023

All other details can be seen from the Tender Document available on the e-procurement portal of the Government of Odisha (**www.tendersodisha.gov.in**) and on the website of OMC (**www.omcltd.in**).
CAD - 2490 : Advisor (C&P) OIPR-30005/11/0148/2324

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, CENTRAL RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BHUBANESWAR
No. 5329 / Date:16.10.2023
"e" Procurement Notice for Road Works

1.	Name of the Work	:	15 No. of Road Works
2.	Total No. of Works	:	08 Nos. road under MMSY-TRIP, 01 road under CMRL, 02 roads under SACI and 04 roads under SDMF for the year 2023-24.
3.	Estimated Cost of the Work	:	Varies from Rs.316.44 lakhs to Rs.2070.63 lakhs
4.	Class of Contractor	:	
	a) Estimated cost more than Rs.1.00 Crores up to Rs.20.00 Crores.		A Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
	b) Estimated cost more than Rs.6.00 Crores up to Rs.50.00 Crores		Special Class (of Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authorities
5.	Period of Completion	:	As mentioned in Column-7 of Annexure
6.	Offered rates by bidder	:	The offered rate by the contractor shall be excluding GST.
7.	Other details		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Date & Time of Opening of Tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6
Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar	Tender - Online - C.C.- 42 of 2023	19.10.2023 at 11.00 AM	03.11.2023 Up to 5.00 PM	04.11.2023 at 11.00 AM	To be intimated lateron

Further details can be seen from the web site : **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
Chief Construction Engineer, Central Rural Works Circle, Bhubaneswar.
O-1295: OIPR-25082/11/0032/2324

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHEOLOGY NAGPUR DIVISION
INVITING NOTICE
The Assistant Director Of Archaeology, Directorate of Archaeology and Museums Nagpur Division (Phone No. 0712-2561187, Email-nagpurada0712@gmail.com) invite E-Tender for the following works form eligible experienced Architectural firms for following works.

Sr. No.	Name Of Work	Tender ID	Last Date	Amount
1	Preparation of Photogrammetric and Lidar Survey Plan of the State Protected Monuments / Sites to delineate the Protected, Controlled areas and Architectural drawings of the monuments within Nagpur division	2023_TCADM_951409	Date: 12.10.2023 TO 26.10.2023	4,02,66,557/-

- The details of E-tender Displayed on website of http://mahatenders.gov.in
- Assistant Director of Archaeology, Directorate of Archaeology Nagpur Division reverses the right to select or reject any all tenders and to increase/decrease terms & conditions. The bidder or an person will have no right ask why the tenders is accepted/rejected.

Sd/-
(Amol Gote)
Assistant Director
Department of Archaeology, Nagpur
DGIPR/2023-2024/4215

EAST COAST RAILWAY
e-Tender Notice No. SNTPBBS-052023-VSS
NAME OF WORK : PROVISION OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM AT D & E CATEGORY STATIONS (149 STATIONS) IN WALTAIR & KHURDA ROAD DIVISIONS OVER EAST COAST RAILWAY.
Approximate Advertised Value : ₹21,00,03,709.35, EMD : ₹12,00,000/-, Completion Period : 12 (Twelve) Months.
Tender Closing Date & Time : At 1530 hrs. of 07.11.2023.
No manual offers sent by Post / Courier / Fax or in person accepted against such e-tenders even if these are submitted on firm's letter head and received in time. All such manual offers shall be considered invalid and shall be rejected summarily without any consideration.
Complete information including e-tender documents of the above e-tender is available in website : **http://www.ireps.gov.in**
Note : The prospective tenderers are advised to revisit the website 15 (Fifteen) days before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender.
Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/
PR-75/CG/23-24 Telecom & NW, Bhubaneswar

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to notify the General Public that my Clients have entered in to an Agreement of Sale for purchase of Residential Site more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from **Sri Sudheendra N Singh** S/o Sri. B.R.Narayana Singh, residing at No.54, Sharma Apartments, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Nagappa Block, Srirampuram, Bengaluru – 560 021. If any person/s has/have any right, title, interest or claim on the below mentioned Schedule Property, they may file their objections with the undersigned along with documentary proof **WITHIN 15 (FIFTEEN) DAYS** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which my Client will proceed to complete the sale transaction as the same is free from all encumbrances/claims. Any objections received thereafter shall not be entertained/ considered.
SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **Site No. 54,** BBMP Katha/PID No. **47/48/54,** measuring North to South on Eastern Side: 30-0 feet, North to South on Western Side: 30-0 feet, East to West on Northern side: 41-0 feet, East to West on Southern Side: 41-0 feet, totally measuring **1230 Sq. ft** in Vijaya Bank Employees Housing Co-Operative Society Limited Layout, formed in Sy. Nos. 98/1,2, 109, 110/1-4, 111, 112/1-H, 112/2-9, 11, 12, 113/1,2,114/1, 2A, 2B, 115/1, 2,3,4,5A,5B,5C,5D,5F, 6-10, 116/1, 2, 3A, 3B, 4A,4B, 5, 6A, 6B, 7A, 7B, 8,9,10, 117, 118/1-6, 119/1, 120/1A, 1B, 2, 121/1-5, 122, 123/1-3, 124/1-3, 125, 126/1,2, 127/1-6, 128, 129, 130, 131/1-4, 132/1A, 1B, 2, 3 133, 134/1, 2, 3A1, 135/1-14, 136 of Bilekahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk the layout plan of which was approved by the Bangalore Development Authority vide its resolution No. 1554,dated 05/04/1989, and subsequent modified layout plan duly approved by the BDA vide their order No.1953/2001-02 dated: 18.10.2002, Situated at Bilekahalli Village, Begur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore presently comes under Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Limits, bearing BBMP Ward No.188 of Bilekahalli Ward and presently and identified **as "# 54, 3rd Main Road, Opposite BWSSB, Vijaya Bank Layout, Bangalore South, Bengaluru-560076"** and bounded on the :-
East by : Site No. 103
West by : Road
North by : Site No. 55
South by : Site No. 53
(U.L.SOMAPPA) Advocate & Notary
 # 708/41, Upstairs, Sree Ramanjaneya Road Srinagar, Bangalore-560050.
(M) 94480 50108, 98806 14954
Bangalore Date : 18-10-2023

PUBLIC NOTICE
The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka, constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Government of India, vide its letter No. 3 dated: 24-08-2023 has accorded Environmental Clearance to M/s. Netra Software Technologies Private Limited for construction of Residential Apartment and Club House at Plot No. Plot No. R-9-D1, R-9-D2, R-9-D1-P and R-9-D2-P of Hardware Sector at Hitech Defense & Aerospace Park, Bengaluru as per applicable provisions of EIA Notification, 2006 and amended thereafter. Copy of the Clearance letter is available with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board and may also be seen on the website of the Karnataka at http://seiaa.karnataka.gov.in/, http://seiaa.kar.nic.in & http://environmentclearance.nic.in.

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to the General Public that our client **Smt. Nagarathi Prasad**, has entered into a transaction to purchase Residential Apartment bearing No. 401 with a super built-up area of 2931 sq.ft., in Fourth Floor of the apartment building known as **'R.K. ASHOKA PARK HEIGHTS'**, with proportionate undivided share of 750 sq ft constructed on the 'B' Schedule Property bearing Municipal No.1 (Previously property bearing Nos.1, 1/1 and property bearing No.2), situated at Second Cross Road, First Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, Corporation Ward No.153 PID No.153-W0102-6 (old Ward No.62) Old PID No.62-127-1, together with two covered mechanical car parking slots in basement floor, from the Vendor **Sri. Amith Balaram** and the said Vendor has represented that he has acquired the said property vide Regd. Sale Deed dated 28.10.2016 vide Document No.JAY-1-06190-2016-17 of Book-1 stored in JAYD271 before the Office of Senior Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar, Bengaluru having purchased from (1) Sri. T.C. Vittal and (2) Sri. T.C. Anantha Murthy and Sri. G.P. Janardhan, represented by their GPA holder, M/s. R.K. Estates, represented by its Managing Partner Sri. R. Kashinath and M/s. R.K. Estates represented by its Managing Partner Sri. R. Kashinath (Developer / Confirming Party) and that Developer has no objection towards sale of the said apartment.
Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever, in respect of the Schedule 'C' and 'D' Property are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Property or their objections if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, and ought to reach us at the address given below within a period of 7 (seven) days from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners has/ have any right, title, interest, or claim/s in respect of the Schedule Property and our Client shall be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction.
SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY
750 (Seven hundred fifty) sq.ft., of undivided share and interest in the land of 'B' Schedule Property;
SCHEDULE 'D' PROPERTY
Residential Apartment privately numbered as 401 with a super built-up area of 2931 sq.ft., in Fourth Floor of the apartment building known as 'R.K. ASHOKA PARK HEIGHTS', constructed on the 'B' Schedule Property bearing Municipal No.1 (Previously property bearing Nos.1, 1/1 and property bearing No.2), situated at Second Cross Road, First Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore, Corporation Ward No.153 PID No.153-W0102-6 (old Ward No.62) Old PID No.62-127-1, together with two covered mechanical car parking slots in basement floor and apartment unit 401 is bounded on the:-
East by: Area open to sky of the apartment building; West by: Area open to sky of the apartment building; North by: Flat No.402, common staircase and lift area lobby in fourth floor; South by: Area open to sky & Second Cross Road.
MITHUN GERAHALLI A.
GERAHALLI LAW OFFICES
No.9, 2nd Cross, CSI Compound, (Behind CSI Compound Park) Mission Road, Bengaluru- 560027.
Ph. No. 080 2227-4590
Mail ID : admin@gerahallilaw.com
Date: 17.10.2023

Law and custom

Court verdict leaves queer people with long struggle ahead for equality

The Supreme Court of India's refusal to accord legal recognition to marriages between persons of the same sex is a huge legal setback to the queer community in the country. Given the progress in law in recent years and the deepening of the meaning of individual rights, there was widespread expectation that the five-judge Constitution Bench would give the Special Marriage Act (SMA), a law that allows any two people to marry, a gender-neutral interpretation to include people belonging to the same sex. Over the years, the amplitude of Article 21 of the Constitution has been expanded to cover the rights of privacy, dignity and marital choice, but the highest court has stopped short of the extra step needed to allow marriages or civil unions that are not heterosexual. All five judges have chosen to leave it to the legislature to enact such a law. Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice Sanjay Kishan Kaul have ruled that queer couples have a right to seek recognition for their union, but declined to read down the provisions of the SMA to that effect. On the other hand, Justices S. Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli and P.S. Narasimha reject the position, holding that any such recognition can only be based on statute. In effect, the Court has accepted the government's view that any move to legalise same-sex marriages will fall in the legislature's domain.

In concluding that there is no fundamental right to marry, the Court has negated the expectation that it would not allow discrimination against same-sex couples in the marital domain to continue. Marriage is indeed a social institution, with its own legal requirements and conditions for what constitutes a valid marriage. The right to seek social and legal validation through marriage is a matter of individual choice protected by the Constitution, but the Court still views it as being subject to statutory limitations. The majority disfavours the position that queer couples have a right to adopt children, but agrees with the minority that there is no bar on transpersons entering into heterosexual marriages. There is no disagreement among the judges about the right of such same-sex couples to cohabit and be free from coercion and threats. Given that large sections of India may be opposed to the legalisation of same-sex marriages on religious and cultural grounds, the possibility of Parliament taking the initiative to do so is quite bleak. The LGBTQIA+ community may now have to take heart from the Court's direction that the government should form a committee to decide the rights and entitlements of queer couples. The community, however, still has quite a struggle ahead before the law catches up with its yearning for equality.

Back in business

New Zealand cannot afford to drop welfarism while setting economy right

After Saturday's national election, New Zealand is poised to get its most right-wing government in years with the conservative National Party and its libertarian ally ACT winning most of the votes and the Labour Party of Prime Minister Chris Hipkins seeing a major erosion of its popular support. With most votes counted, National's vote share went up to 39% from 26% in 2020, while Labour's share collapsed from 50% to 27% in the same period. The Green Party, a Labour ally, won 11% of the votes and ACT secured 9%. Labour's fall was particularly significant as under the leadership of the charismatic Jacinda Ardern, it had swept the national elections three years earlier. Ever since New Zealand moved to the proportional representation system in 1993, 2020 was the only time a single party got an absolute majority. Ms. Ardern's leadership was widely praised, especially during her handling of the COVID-19 crisis (New Zealand saw one of the lowest per capita death rates). She was also seen as an icon of liberal politics, and Labour promised to tackle child poverty, climate crisis, and narrow inequality. But she stepped down in January this year citing burnout. By that time, her popularity had also tanked, with many increasingly frustrated over the country's economy.

Mr. Hipkins campaigned on Labour's achievements including the tackling of the pandemic and child poverty and promised to continue its broader agenda aimed at "helping the working people". But the Opposition's criticism that Labour had failed to bring in the "transformational change" it had promised, after six years of power, seems to have hurt the party. Its stringent COVID-19 lockdowns and border controls also contributed to the economic woes. There was a brief recession this year and the country is still reeling under high inflation and high interest rates. National Party leader Christopher Luxon, a former airline executive, focused his campaign on the economy, and promised to cut interest rates and government spending. Voters, driven by concerns about the economy, punished the party which they had voted for overwhelmingly three years ago, and turned towards Mr. Luxon. He will assume power at a critical time for New Zealand. While any radical change in foreign policy (which is leaned towards the U.S. without irking China) is unlikely, at home, Mr. Luxon is likely to move the government away from Labour's welfarism. He has to address the cost of living crisis and bring the economy back to its growth trajectory. But he should also be mindful of structural issues such as homelessness, child poverty and inequality that have plagued New Zealand's economy for decades. He has to balance his pro-business policies with incremental redistribution.

Demolishing the frame from outside the Constitution

Sruthisagar Yamunan

is a doctoral candidate in comparative constitutional law at the Central European University, Vienna

The often-repeated term "chilling effect" does not really capture the gravity of what transpired in India recently. The Delhi Police conducted extensive raids on the news portal *NewsClick*, eventually arresting two persons, including its founder and Editor-in-Chief, Prabir Purkayastha, in cases that have invoked the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The police action was sweeping in nature, with even very junior staff within the news organisation searched and their electronic equipment seized.

In brief, the First Information Report accuses the news organisation of accessing funds from pro-China elements and in turn, through its coverage of events such as the farmers' protests in 2020-21, undermining the internal security of India. The news organisation has rejected these accusations.

That such drastic police action against the media, to the extent of invoking a terrorism law against journalists, raises serious questions over the erosion of freedom of speech and expression, has been extensively commented upon. But it would be a mistake to look at this development in isolation.

When seen together with other trends, such as the increasingly precarious position of religious minorities subjected to an unrelenting cycle of violence and demonisation, and specific changes to political financing in the introduction of the opaque instrument of electoral bonds, a conspicuous pattern emerges that has wider repercussions to the idea of democracy and rule of law.

An immediate response of the media fraternity, that was justifiably concerned, was to write a letter to the Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, exhorting him to take judicial notice of the matter. The logic perhaps was that a Supreme Court of India that gave India the famed "basic structure doctrine" in an attempt to restrict majoritarianism running roughshod over fundamental rights, would see that a line has been crossed.

Court's role

A gamut of developments over the past few years relating to religious minorities, freedom of expression and speech and political financing makes it amply clear that the basic elements of the Constitution are being subverted from outside the text of the document. This requires the Court to go beyond legal textual obsessions to countenance the challenge posed to the Constitution's identity as a democratic, liberal, transformative document. At stake is also the identity of the Court and its readiness to guard the Constitution.

> The Constitution's identity is endangered not just by a textual transformation but also in the subversion of its liberal, democratic environment

The question of what the extent of a court's reach should be in a democracy has gripped legal scholars for centuries. The fact that a court is an unelected institution in a system that has an elected legislature has led several scholars to question the legitimacy of the judiciary striking down laws made by an elected entity. Parliament, after all, is seen as the representative of the people's will.

But even those sympathetic to the legitimacy question have taken the role of courts in protecting the democratic process very seriously. To draw from the arguments of John Hart Ely, one of the foremost constitutional scholars of the 20th century, the way the courts could justify their powers to intervene in the decisions of the legislature is to focus on the processes that sustain democracy. What rules and values should govern a society are perhaps decisions best left to the representative body. But the courts have an obligation to ensure that the integrity of the process of democracy is protected.

This is so because if the democratic process is faulty, then there is ample scope to raise questions over the legitimacy of the representative body itself. For example, if the electoral process is structured in a manner that excludes minorities from effective representation, the equality principle takes a serious hit. If there is widespread rigging of elections, the legislature emerging from such rigged elections will be subjected to the charge of illegitimacy and its decisions questioned.

Thus, a court, being unelected and outside of this process of popular representation, would do well to ensure at bare minimum the integrity of the democratic process. In a sense, scholars such as Ely have also argued that this insulation from the electoral process is perhaps a good reason why courts are well placed to ensure its integrity.

In the Indian context, these discussions may seem academic given that the powers of the Supreme Court today clearly include those to strike down laws and constitutional amendments. It has even imposed an implied restriction on Parliament in amending the Constitution through the basic structure doctrine. Therefore, it would not be wrong to argue that protecting the democratic process is still at the very core of the Court's duties.

This protection, however, cannot be ensured with a textual obsession in determining what subverts a constitution. It is immensely possible to retain the text of the constitution but diminish it from the outside. It need not even require ordinary laws. To understand this process, we should engage with the idea of democracy beyond the process of elections.

Democracy undermined

For Richard Dworkin, another important legal and political scholar of the 20th century, democracy is not just in the principle of majority decision-making. Decisions should also be made under democratic conditions "whose structure, composition, and practices treat all members of the community, as individuals, with equal respect and concern". This is the constitutional part of "constitutional democracy".

To simplify, it is not possible to ensure these "democratic conditions" without basic values that contribute to a robust democracy – freedom of speech and expression, freedom of association, and a gamut of rights that ensure that majoritarianism does not go berserk. The Indian Constitution, one could confidently argue, has textually created these conditions as best as it could. Many of these, including the democratic system and fundamental rights, form part of the basic structure of the document as articulated by the Supreme Court.

But subverting these conditions does not require a full-blown rewriting of the Constitution. In fact, it does not require rewriting the Constitution in any manner. When terrorism laws are invoked against journalists, the fundamental right to speech and expression is textually intact in the Constitution but takes a dent outside. When hate speeches against minorities are left unchecked, secularism remains intact in words but not in experiences. When electoral funding is opaque, democracy is confined to paper.

To legally invoke the basic structure doctrine in some of these circumstances may be impossible given the theoretical restrictions that come with such a doctrine. It is, and rightly so, reserved for certain specific circumstances. But the Court has enough powers already to arrest the decline if it realises the effect of this larger trend. Turning a blind eye to such profound violations of democratic conditions outside the text of the Constitution and laws would render both the Constitution and the Court without their identities. How the Court responds to this challenge may determine not only the fate of the people but also that of the Court.

Centralised procurement as a powerful health idea

Murali Neelakantan

is Principal Lawyer, amicus

Ashish Kulkarni

is Blogger, econforeverybody.com

Imagine that you have decided to go up against McDonald's in India. The homegrown *vada pav* will go up against the mighty burger and come out trumps. And so you build a plan to have hundreds, nay, thousands of franchises all over the country. They will sell clean, hygienic and tasty *vada pavs* in the millions in the years to come.

What a great idea, and let us hope that somebody actually does this. But here is a quick question: should each franchisee purchase their own potatoes, or would you much rather have a centralised procurement team to do the task? You will quickly realise that there are two central problems to solve: price and quality.

Each franchisee conducting negotiations with potato sellers becomes a problem when it comes to price. The amount of potatoes that the entire business needs to purchase will be more than the amount of potatoes that each franchisee will need to buy. So, who do you think will be able to negotiate a better price? The centralised team, or each of the individual franchisees?

Each franchisee conducting negotiations with potato sellers is also problematic when it comes to quality. Each franchisee might have a different idea of what is acceptable quality. And, each franchisee might have a different idea about what makes for a good potato. But that would then lead to each franchisee's *vada pavs* having a different taste – and that just will not do in a franchisee model.

This brings up another question. So, why should hospitals be any different when it comes to drug procurement?

In India

Many countries and international organisations (including McDonald's) have shown that a pooled buyer model for drug procurement addresses many issues that are related to price efficiency, stockouts and quality concerns. But for reasons that have remained mysterious for decades, the central government chooses to ignore the merits of pooled procurement when it comes to schemes such as the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS), the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (PMJAY) and the Employees' State Insurance Scheme (ESI).

> Pooled procurement by the central government when it comes to drug procurement can revolutionise the health-care system in India

Corporate hospital chains, on the other hand, are well aware of the benefits of pooled procurement. For years on end, they have conducted direct negotiations with pharmaceutical companies, and availed of significant discounts. Patients at these hospitals end up buying these drugs at maximum retail price of course, but that is another story. We cannot help but wonder why many more hospitals cannot team up to form buyers' clubs, benefit from better bargaining power, and then, being not-for-profit institutions, pass on these cost savings to patients.

The focus in these papers

A recent paper, "A National Cancer Grid pooled procurement initiative, India", demonstrates the viability of just such an idea. Group negotiation, uniform contracts, and, finally, purchases by hospitals associated with the National Cancer Grid for 40 drugs resulted in savings of ₹13.2 billion. Without pooled procurement, the cost would have been ₹15.6 billion, with savings ranging from between 23% to 99%. As the authors say with quiet understatement in the last sentence of their abstract, their study reveals the advantages of group negotiation in pooled procurement for high-value medicines. This approach, they conclude, can be applied to other health systems besides cancer.

We are in complete agreement; our paper, "Unifying India's Healthcare Markets" makes just such an argument. We show that the central government is not consistent in how it covers different categories of beneficiaries under the CGHS, ESI and PMJAY. The same procedure, for example, might be available in one scheme, but not the other. And, centralised procurement, sadly, is not yet a reality.

It is not that the central government is unaware of the benefits of pooled procurement and price discovery.

When the government (through the National Aids Control Organization) procures male contraceptives, it invites tenders from private manufacturers and then offers to buy from all those who are willing to match the lowest price. How does the government ensure that the suppliers are not colluding to keep the price high? HLL Lifecare Ltd., a public sector unit (PSU), with the highest manufacturing capacity in India, provides a benchmark price. All the bidders know that if they are not competitive on price, the government will just procure all its requirements from HLL and they will be left with unused manufacturing capacity – and as a result, face huge fixed costs and overheads.

The government can follow this model for most of the drugs it procures. It has many pharma PSUs that can provide benchmark prices and also ensure that the government has leverage. Such leverage ensures that the government is not forced to buy from private manufacturers, given that there is competition from PSUs which can make supplies at a competitive price.

The issue of better quality

Finally, in addition to cost savings, buyers' clubs can ensure better quality by having the supplies tested independently rather than having to rely on the drug regulator to ensure quality. This is not a new idea; this is standard operating procedure for buyers in many developed nations.

Centralised procurement, or pooled procurement, is a simple yet powerful idea that has the power and the potential to reduce costs, ensure better deployment of funds in other areas related to health care, and ensure availability of life-saving drugs in this country. It is an idea with both theoretical backing, and now empirical validation. It is an idea that India should implement at scale, and as soon as possible.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The world must step in

'An eye-for-eye and tooth-for-tooth would lead to a world of the blind and toothless' — is what the ground reality is as far as the conflict between Israel and Hamas is concerned. Unless better sense prevails, this war will turn out to be ugly, with larger ramifications. Israel must be made to comprehend the kind of catastrophe the world could be heading to. World leaders must ask Israel to exercise restraint and engage in meaningful dialogue, a process which must include the heads of key nations, to arrive at some sort of settlement. There is a need for a separate Palestinian state, while also making it clear that terrorism should not be encouraged in any form, anywhere.

S. Parthasarathy,
Chennai

Need for transparency

Legalised yet anonymous and unlimited donations received by political parties through the electoral bonds, and which are exempted from the purview of the Right to Information Act, have been a matter of great concern ever since the introduction of this scheme in 2018. There needs to be complete transparency.

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

The anonymity of the 'buyer' and 'receiver' of money is apparently ensured so that any *quid pro quo* deal of any sort does not come to light. It is no secret that the buyers of the bonds are rich corporates and the receivers are the major political parties. There should be a judicial ruling that under the Representation of the People Act, all recognised parties should make an audited annual account available. People have a right to know the financial activities of every party.

B. Sundar Raman,
Coimbatore

Back in the Olympics

The return of cricket to the Los Angeles Olympics 2028 is welcome. But the game should be played in real cricketing spirit, as in the World Cup, with full strength and participation. Otherwise, it will turn out to be yet another damp squib.

Dr. V. Purushothaman,
Chennai

New contenders

In the 1960s and the 1970s, international cricket had its novices in the form of the Kiwis and Ceylon. Regular teams never looked at matches with them as a contest. But these teams have taken great strides and are a force to contend with. In the current age, one has Bangladesh making significant contributions. Afghanistan too is fast showing that it will become a force in global cricket.

S. Kamat,
Alto Santa Cruz, Goa

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

When tigers and jackals get the same protection

Kartik Shanker
is with IISc, Bangalore

Umesh Srinivasan
is with IISc, Bangalore

The authors would like to thank Farah Ishtiaq, Ullasa Kodandaramiah, Anand Krishnan, Jayant Kulkarni, Prachi Mehta, Nandini Rajamani, V.V. Robin, Hema Somanathan, Aarthi Sridhar, and Abi Vanak for their contribution to the article.

Many ecologists are incensed that an inordinate number of species have been included in the new schedules of the Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act, 2022, without an objective or replicable process. In brief, Schedule 1, which confers the highest protection, contains about 600 species of vertebrates and hundreds of invertebrates, while Schedule 2 contains about 2,000 species (with 1,134 species of birds alone).

Issues for conservation

The first issue with this listing regards conservation itself. The WLPA was originally intended to regulate the use of various species (including hunting), restrict trade, and police the trafficking of species. The original Act is written in this form, with research being an exception under the hunting clause. The new Act goes one step further by aligning itself with CITES, and including the CITES appendices as well. Nowhere in the Act is there a clear connection between endangerment and conservation.

The listing of species has two direct effects. One, even if it were to have benefits for conservation, species would have to be prioritised. Listing hundreds of species of mammals and over 1,000 species of birds and innumerable other taxa means that it is unclear where resources should be allocated on the basis of this list. The same level of protection is offered to tigers and jackals, to the great Indian bustard and common barn owls, to the king cobra and rat snakes.

Two, every action has consequences, and in law, often perverse ones. For example, the Tree Preservation Acts of Kerala and Karnataka proscribe the felling of native trees. Instead of promoting conservation, these Acts disincentivise plantation owners from planting native trees, and promote exotics such as Silver Oak, that they can cut any time they need to.

An inordinate number of species have been included in the new schedules of the Wildlife Protection (Amendment) Act, 2022, with little consultation, and no process or logic

In the case of the WLPA, a particularly absurd consequence of listing has been the presence of the spotted deer (chital) in Schedule 1. Common throughout India, these are invasive in the Andaman Islands and have caused untold harm to the vegetation and herpetofauna. But they cannot be legally culled or removed because of the WLPA.

Impact on people

But the second, more important, issue concerns the impact on people. Various Schedule 1 species pose enormous physical, mental and economic harm to people. Crocodiles in the Andamans, leopards in certain pockets, and elephants everywhere kill people, destroy their livelihoods, and leave lasting psychological impacts. And yet people are told glibly by elite conservationists that they should learn 'co-existence'. The WLPA serves to enforce this viewpoint. The new Act elevates wild pigs and nilgai to Schedule 1, which means that the few States that have now allowed limited culling of problematic animals may not be able to retain that policy. This shows utter disregard for the plight of farmers and marginal cultivators.

The WLPA also has a restrictive view on hunting and the use of animals, even when it has been done traditionally for hundreds of years. Restrictions on use were imposed because those species had declined in numbers, but by the same logic, regulated use should be considered when animals are abundant, at least to support the livelihoods of local communities. But this is seen as unacceptable by the bureaucracy and abhorrent by many conservationists, with no consideration of science or society.

The third issue is that despite the support of many individuals in the forest bureaucracy, the paperwork involved in getting permits for research is tedious and time consuming. The listing of such a large number of species could have debilitating effects on research. Environmental NGOs will have a harder time getting permits for research and conservation, even of common species such as barn owls. It is not clear whether citizen science will be able to proceed. Perhaps no one can be stopped from casually observing a Schedule 1 species while birding, but can one upload the 'data' to an international portal such as e-bird? It is likely that everyone could face potential effects to some degree.

Unfortunately, while lamenting the impact of the WLPA on their work, some ecologists have often been insensitive to the larger issues at play. Although there has been considerable criticism of western scientists conducting parachute science in the Global South, many ecologists in India have been guilty of the same, swooping in and out of distant remote field sites, taking knowledge and biological material and leaving no benefits. Worse, we have often promoted policies that have negative consequences for the very communities that we exploited. The Act that poses a hindrance to our work is a much graver threat to the lives of the people that it impinges upon.

In reality, all three issues – conservation, people's issues, and research – need to be attended to, with different degrees of urgency. Those whose lives are at stake need to be safeguarded first. Puerile animal rights arguments that result in the loss of human lives and livelihoods need to be disregarded. Second, management actions for species and habitats need to be tailored to ecology, species biology, and context. Often, this calls for research or at least regular monitoring by independent agencies, which is hampered by the scheduling of species. Finally, both citizens and ecologists have a right to observe nature and collect data if they so desire, as long as it does not cause undue harm to populations, and follows the basic principles of the ethical treatment of animals.

The Congress's balancing act

The party is attempting to make inroads into the non-Jat vote base in Haryana

STATE OF PLAY

Vikas Vasudeva

The coming 2024 general elections and the 2024 Assembly polls in Haryana have increased political activity in the State. The Congress, the key challenger to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government, seems to be trying to co-opt the BJP's potential vote bank. The Leader of the Opposition, Bhupinder Singh Hooda, recently promised four Deputy Chief Ministers from different communities, including one woman, if the Congress forms the next government in the State.

The politics of Haryana revolves around the coalition of castes. Against this backdrop, Mr. Hooda's declaration is being seen as an attempt to make inroads into the non-Jat vote base. It is the consolidation of non-Jats which is believed to have been a key reason for the BJP's emergence in Haryana since 2014. Jats account for about 25%, Brahmins constitute about 12%, and Scheduled Castes form about 21% of the population.

A surprise win

In the 2014 Assembly elections, the BJP had sprung a surprise by winning Haryana. One of the key reasons for its victory was the consolidation of non-Jat votes, especially in the northern and southern parts of the State, where non-Jats outnumber Jats. The same consolidation was believed to have helped the party to come close to power in 2019 as well, even though the BJP fell short of a clear majority in the 90-member Haryana Assembly. The BJP won 40 seats in the Assembly polls and forged an alliance with the Jannayak Janta Party (JJP), which had 10 MLAs, to form the government.

In a recent interview with *The Hindu*, Mr. Hooda stated that the four promised Deputy Chief Ministers would be from the Brahmin, Other Backward Classes, and Dalit communities if a Jat becomes Chief Minister. And if a non-Jat becomes Chief Minister, the Deputy Chief Ministers would be from the Jat and other communities. The intention, he said, "is to give respect to all with a balancing act."

The Congress's announcement seems to be a preemptive move. The party has indicated that it is adopting an 'inclusive approach' towards different communities by assuring them that they will be given adequate representation and respect in the government. If the Congress is able to successfully convey its message of taking along different sections of society, it could make electoral gains.

The Congress's conscious effort of co-option is quite clear as the party looks all set to experiment with the technique of social engineering by attempting to rope in different communities in State politics. The latest debate surrounding the caste census seems to be a reason behind the move to announce four Deputy Chief Ministers. The Congress has made it clear that if it forms government in Haryana, it will conduct the caste census, which it feels is important for the welfare and uplift of all sections that have remained financially and socially underdeveloped for years.

Anti-incumbency

The BJP, which has been in power in Haryana for around nine years, will have to fight the anti-incumbency factor in the run-up to the polls. The party, however, has been asserting that the State government led by Chief Minister Manohar Lal has effectively fought corruption and nepotism and has given a new direction to State politics by ensuring complete transparency in the system. As the Congress takes on the BJP, the challenge before the ruling party, which is riddled with factionalism and has been running for the past around nine years without block and district committees, is to put up a united fight.

In the Jat-dominated politics of Haryana, after forming the government in 2014, the BJP selected Manohar Lal, a non-Jat, as Chief Minister. He became the first non-Jat Chief Minister of the State in 18 years after Bhajan Lal. Since then, the feeling among Jats of loss of political power at the helm cannot be denied, say political observers.

The Jat votes have traditionally been divided among the Congress, the Indian National Lok Dal (INLD), and the JJP, the breakaway faction of the INLD. The JJP, an alliance partner in the government, is also expected to be fighting the anti-incumbency factor. If the Congress is able to retain and consolidate the Jat vote bank in addition to garnering the support of other communities thorough its co-opt approach, it could see a better electoral performance than the last Assembly and parliamentary elections in Haryana.

The representation of OBC in faculty recruitment in HEIs

The share of professors, associate professors, and assistant professors from OBCs will be around 27% when one cycle of job for all levels will be complete

DATA POINT

Anish Gupta

On August 1, 2023, a reply to a starred question in Parliament on the shortfall in the recruitment of professors belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC) in higher educational institutes (HEIs) gained significant attention. The reply, which was based on annual data published by the University Grants Commission (UGC), stated that only 4% of the professors recruited were from the OBC category.

It is important to note that these numbers are subject to interpretation. A clumsy interpretation would be to understand this as a far lower number when compared with the constitutionally mandated 27% reservation for OBCs in government jobs and HEIs. This is the common interpretation, which shows HEIs in poor light.

The numbers could also be interpreted in a different way. There were only nine professors (0.85%) and 38 associate professors (1.41%) in the OBC category as on March 31, 2020, which rose to 60 professors (4.5%) and 187 associate professors (6.5%) as on March 31, 2023 (**Table 1**). This leads to an increase of about seven times and five times in professors and associate professors from the OBC category, respectively, within three years. This interpretation paints a rosy picture of HEIs.

Which of these interpretations is correct? Perhaps both are correct, yet both suffer from statistical slackness. This issue is important, Hence, it merits further understanding of the details of promotion/selection to the post of professor and associate professor in HEIs.

Before progressing further into the discussion, it is noteworthy to take into account the following facts. First, reservation for OBCs at the level of professors and associate professors was implemented after the introduction of the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2019. Usually, it takes time to frame rules. The appointment process takes some time as well. It can be safely assumed that the results of this policy change would have taken shape only after 2020.

Second, under the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS), the minimum teaching experience required for promotion to the post of professor and associate professor is 15 and 12 years, respectively. Reservation for OBCs at the entry level (assistant professor) was implemented in 2008. So, it is natural that those OBC candidates recruited after 2008 would be eligible for promotion to the post of associate professor in 2021 and to the post of professor in 2024 under this particular scheme.

Last, prior to 2020, a faulty 13-point roster was being used to earmark the posts reserved at all levels of teaching. This resulted in fewer posts for all reserved categories, including OBCs. It was later replaced with a more equitable 200-point roster in the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers' Cadre) Act, 2019.

Due to these reasons, the share of total OBC faculty at any level (professor, associate professor and assistant professor) for any year will always be less than the constitutionally mandated 27%. Similarly, a comparison in appointments made prior to March 31, 2020 with those recruited after this date will necessarily show a high increase.

Perhaps a prudent way of assessing the numbers is to compare the share of professors and associate professors appointed/promoted from the OBC category after 2020 with the constitutionally mandated 27% of reservation for OBCs. In statistical parlance, it is fair to compare the marginal change, that is the share of OBC faculty appointed and/or promoted between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2023, rather than comparing the share of the OBC faculty as on March 31, 2023, with the constitutionally mandated 27% reservation.

Though we do not have complete figures related to OBC faculty appointed for all central universities between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2023, data on two central universities for this period can shed some light on the issue. At the University of Delhi, three out of the seven professors (43%), seven out of the 24 associate professors (29%), and 60 out of the 202 assistant professors (30%) appointed were OBCs during the above period. Similarly, at Jawaharlal Nehru University, another central university, during the same period, four out of the 49 professors (8%), 15 out of the 55 associate professors (27%) and 20 out of the 64 assistant professors (30%) were from the OBC category. This indicates that the difference between reservation mandated by the Constitution and actual implementation is not very different if we take the marginal change. However, it does not imply that all institutions are putting in similar efforts. For instance, the IITs and IIMs have much more to do on this count, since the share of OBCs at all levels of teaching was just 3.18% in all IITs and less than 0.1% for professors and associate professors.

The table shows that the share of OBCs in total filled vacancies has increased from 2020 at all levels (professor, associate professor and assistant professor). However, in the case of professors, associate professors, and assistant professors, it would roughly take 19, 22 and 35 years, respectively, to reach the constitutionally mandated 27% reservation for OBCs. This implies that the percentage of professors, associate professors, and assistant professors from the OBC category will be around the mandated 27% in 2039, 2042, and 2043, respectively, when one cycle of job for all levels will be complete.

Anish Gupta teaches Economics at the Delhi School of Economics

Vacant posts

The data for the tables were sourced from the annual reports of the University Grants Commission and Lok Sabha answers

Assist. Prof: Assistant Professor; Assoc. Prof: Associate Professor; Total posts: Total posts filled

Column names- GEN, OBC, SC, ST are the posts filled by teaching staff in those respective categories

Table 1: Category-wise teaching positions filled. OBC share in total posts is highlighted

Posts	Sanctioned posts	GEN	OBC	SC	ST	Total posts	OBC %
2016							
Assist. Prof	8,056	3,880	779	673	297	5,629	**13.8**
Assoc. Prof	4,080	2,132	15	98	16	2,261	**0.7**
Professor	2,047	1,223	16	31	7	1,277	**1.3**
2017							
Assist. Prof	7,888	4,112	839	701	399	6,051	**13.9**
Assoc. Prof	4,006	2,118	28	113	39	2,298	**1.2**
Professor	2,100	999	12	34	12	1,057	**1.1**
2018							
Assist. Prof	7,904	4,095	896	727	400	6,118	**14.6**
Assoc. Prof	4,014	2,006	3	113	39	2,161	**0.1**
Professor	1,984	848	2	43	19	912	**0.2**
2019							
Assist. Prof	10,368	4,560	1,141	926	437	7,200	**15.8**
Assoc. Prof	4,988	2,343	0	131	34	2,521	**0.0**
Professor	2,513	1,347	0	43	9	1,409	**0.0**
2020							
Assist. Prof	10,830	5,272	1,327	1,006	482	8,274	**16.0**
Assoc. Prof	5,011	2,445	38	147	41	2,686	**1.4**
Professor	2,498	977	9	52	8	1,058	**0.9**
2021							
Assist. Prof	4,898	2,567	709	486	258	4,208	**16.8**
Assoc. Prof	3,137	1,405	75	85	33	1,675	**4.5**
Professor	3,020	1,299	159	137	46	1,667	**9.5**
2022							
Assist. Prof	6,889	3,422	979	651	327	5,438	**18.0**
Assoc. Prof	2,873	1,511	63	104	36	1,718	**3.7**
Professor	1,508	1,018	12	48	6	1,084	**1.1**
2023							
Assist. Prof	10,386	5,284	1,654	1,094	534	8,940	**18.5**
Assoc. Prof	4,691	2,304	187	231	69	2,817	**6.5**
Professor	2,348	1,146	60	96	22	1,341	**4.5**

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 18, 1973

Jordan joins in Syrian offensive

Amman, Oct. 17: Jordanian ground forces, supported by Syrian fighter-bombers and other Arab armoured forces, today launched an attack against the Israeli armour and artillery positions on the Golan Heights, Amman Radio said. The radio, quoting its Military Correspondent on the Syrian-Israeli front, said the attack was launched at dawn and "fierce fighting" lasted till noon. Syrian artillery to-day destroyed two Israeli missile launching sites and a number of tanks in various parts of the Golan Heights front, according to a Syrian military communique issued at 12-30 GMT (18 00 IST). The communique reported that the Syrian forces had thrown back the Israeli attacks against Syrian positions in the northern sector of the front. An earlier communique read over Damascus Radio said the Israeli aircraft had attacked the Syrian ports of Latakia and Tartus at 8-50 GMT (14-20 IST). It said the Syrian planes and ground fire destroyed three of the attacking aircraft. Another communique reported dogfights between the Syrian and Israeli planes north of Damascus at 9:00 GMT (14-30 IST). It said one Israeli plane was shot down and crashed 35 km from the city. Syrian and Iraqi forces mounted three counter-attacks over a five hour period this morning from the northern axis and in the central sector, an Israeli spokesman said in Tel Aviv. All were repulsed and the Syrians and Iraqis suffered heavy losses, said Col Pri-Har.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FROM THE OCTOBER 17, 1923 EDITION AS THERE WAS NO EDITION ON OCTOBER 18

A new currency scheme

Berlin, Oct. 16: Under the dictatorial powers conferred by the emergency law, Government has decided to launch a new currency scheme on similar lines to those suggested last month. The new unit of currency however will be called Rentenmark instead of Budenmark as was previously proposed. The Rentenmark will be issued by a new privately owned bank called Rentenbank, and the currency will be backed by gold securities. The Rentenbank will place 1,200 million Rentenmarks at the disposal of Government. Paper marks will also be legal tender.

From Page One

Cannot legalise same-sex marriage: SC

The Bench refused to tinker with the Special Marriage Act. Chief Justice Chandrachud said it was within the legislative domain to rid the 1954 Act of its "institutional limitations". Justice Bhat found the petitioners' plea to read various provisions of the Act in a gender-neutral manner for enabling same-sex marriage, "unsustainable".

The majority view held that the court's judgment decriminalising homosexuality in 2018 did not extend to legal recognition of queer unions.

In his minority opinion, the Chief Justice held that the right to form a union was a feature of the fundamental right to choose partners and lead a dignified, meaningful life. Equality cannot be denied to same-sex couples on the basis of their sexual orientation, he said, emphasising that queer persons have a right to form abiding relationships. He held that queerness was a natural phenomenon, neither urban nor elite, adding that the conception of marriage was neither universal nor static.

"It is insufficient if persons have the ability and freedom to form relationships unregulated by the State. For the full enjoyment of such relationships, it is necessary that the State accord recognition to such relationships," Chief Justice Chandrachud said.

Justice Kaul agreed that legal recognition to same-sex relationships was a step forward towards "marriage equality". He noted: "Legal recognition aids social acceptance, which in turn increases queer participation in public spaces."

He said the next step in due course would be to create a regulatory framework or an "edifice of governance to give meaningful realisation to the right to enter into a union, whether termed as marriage or a union". Both judges urged the Centre to constitute a high-powered committee to set out the scope of benefits available to such unions.

The majority of judges on the Bench, however, held a different view.

"Previous judgments of this court have established that queer and LGBTQ+ couples too have the right to union or relationship – be it mental, emotional or sexual – flowing from the right to privacy, right to choice, and autonomy. This, however, does not extend to a right to claim entitlement to any legal status for the union or relationship. A sequitur of this is that the court cannot enjoin or direct the creation of such regulatory framework resulting in legal status," Justice Bhat said.

After viral video, Kamal Nath and Digvijaya bury the hatchet

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

A day after a video surfaced on social media in which Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee chief Kamal Nath could be heard telling party workers to "tear up the clothes of Digvijaya Singh and his son Jaivardhan Singh", Mr. Nath on Tuesday tried to defuse the tension as the two leaders shared light banter during the launch of the Congress manifesto in Bhopal.

In the video, Mr. Nath is seen talking to a group of people, reportedly supporters of party leader Virendra Raghuvanshi. The MLA for Kolaras in Shivpuri district recently joined the Congress from the BJP, but could not get ticket for the Shivpuri Assembly seat he sought. The party has instead fielded K.P. Singh, Pichhore MLA.

Mr. Nath is heard blaming Mr. Digvijaya for the development. He is heard saying that he had "left the matter" with Mr. Digvijaya and Mr. Jaivardhan and there could be some misunderstanding.

"I myself did not understand why K.P. Singh has to be fielded from Shivpuri. I got Virendra to join the party and now I am embarrassed in front of him. I have called Digvijaya Singh and K.P. Singh to Delhi. I want Virendra [to contest]..." he told party men.

As the clip went viral, BJP leaders alleged factionalism in the Congress amid ticket distribution.

IPL team, OBC quota, health insurance: Cong. makes poll pitch for M.P.

Party reiterates promise of ₹1,500 allowance for women and LPG cylinder for ₹500 in manifesto for upcoming Assembly election; caste survey for State also high on agenda similar to one in Bihar

Mehul Malpani
BHOPAL

Bunch of promises: Madhya Pradesh Congress president Kamal Nath, Digvijaya Singh, MP, and other party leaders releasing the manifesto for the Assembly election in Bhopal on Tuesday. ANI

The Congress released its election manifesto on Tuesday for the Madhya Pradesh Assembly election with the promise of an Indian Premier League (IPL) team for the State, ₹25-lakh health insurance cover and accidental insurance up to ₹10 lakh for all families, a caste-based survey, 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in government jobs, farm loan waiver up to ₹2 lakh and implementation of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) and others.

In its 106-page manifesto titled *Vachan Patra* consisting of 1,290 promises, the Congress promised to buy wheat from farmers at ₹2,600 a quintal and rice at ₹2,500 per quintal, and pay an allowance of ₹1,500-₹3,000 to unemployed youth. Releasing the manifesto in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh Congress Committee president Kamal Nath announced the Nandini Gau Dhan Yojana under which cow dung will be purchased at ₹2 a kg.

Elections to the 230 Assembly seats will be held on November 17 and the votes will be counted on December 3. The two main parties, the Congress and the BJP, have promised a slew of welfare schemes, several of them focused on women.

Karnataka model

Reiterating its earlier promise of a ₹1,500 allowance for women and LPG cylinder for ₹500 under the Nari Samman Yojana, the Congress, in its manifesto, promised free bus rides for women in metro cities, on the lines of its guarantees in Karnataka where it won a thumping majority in May.

Mr. Nath said that the party received more than 9,000 suggestions from across the State for its manifesto.

"Several people from across the State used to give me their suggestions every day in person or through email and WhatsApp. I even received several postcards. Many people also handed me their suggestions and demands on chits inside a match box when I visited their areas," he said.

The Congress leader said that Madhya Pradesh should also have its IPL team and that the Congress will work to make it happen.

He said that the Congress has made separate single-page manifestos for sections such as women, youth, farmers, workers, families, belief, and social justice.

The Congress has made a caste-based survey its main plank in the Madhya Pradesh election after the Bihar government earlier this month released its survey, revealing that the OBCs and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) formed over 63% of the State's population. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has also promised to hold a caste census if the Congress forms a government after the 2024 Lok Sabha election. It is also the first time that the Congress has promised a 27% reservation to OBCs in a manifesto for a State election.

Mr. Nath launched the party's slogan for the election – 'Congress *Aayegi, Khushhaali Laayegi*' (The Congress will come and bring happiness).

SP pledges caste survey, free power for Madhya Pradesh polls

Press Trust of India
BHOPAL/LUCKNOW

The Samajwadi Party (SP) on Tuesday vowed to conduct a caste survey and assured to provide rights and respect to Dalits, backward communities and minorities if it gets to govern Madhya Pradesh as the party announced "firm promises" for voters of the State for the November 17 Assembly election.

Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister and SP president Akhilesh Yadav unveiled the document titled *Pakke Vaade* (firm promises) for the M.P. election, listing a host of assurances, including a pension scheme for women, free power up to 300 units and restoration of the old pension scheme for state government employees, party spokesperson Rajendra Chowdhury told PTI in Lucknow.

He said the document is not a manifesto but a list of promises which the SP will try to fulfil if its candidates get elected.

Sway in some pockets

The SP, which has pockets of influence in the BJP-ruled State, has announced candidates for nine Assembly constituencies so far, including Niwari, Chhatarpur district (2 seats), Datia, Sidhi district (2 seats), Singrauli, Rewa and Balaghat. The party is planning to contest on 10-12 seats in M.P., which has a 230-member Assembly, he said.

In bid to placate Rajputs after dropping MLA, BJP makes tactical inductions in Rajasthan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vishvaraj Singh Mewar (left) and Bhawani Singh Kalvi (second from left) at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Tuesday. ANI

With the Assembly election in Rajasthan scheduled for November 25, Vishvaraj Singh Mewar, a descendant of the legendary Mewar king Maharana Pratap who held out against the Mughals, and Bhawani Singh Kalvi, son of Karni Sena founder Lokendra Singh Kalvi, joined the BJP on Tuesday.

They joined the party in the presence of Rajasthan BJP president C.P. Joshi, Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, BJP national general secretary Arun Singh, party chief spokesperson Anil Baluni, and Rajsamand MP and Jaipur royal Diya Kumari.

The legacy of Maharana Pratap was mentioned during Mr. Vishvaraj's induction. BJP national president J.P. Nadda posted about it on X (formerly Twitter): "The descendant of the revered Maharana Pratap, Vishvendra Singh Mewar, and that of Bhawani Singh Kalvi, son of Karni Sena founder Lokendra Singh Kalvi, are welcome into the BJP family."

Mr. Kalvi has been a well-known polo player, while Mr. Vishvaraj's father, Mahendra Singh Mewar, was elected to the Lok Sabha on BJP ticket from Chittorgarh in 1989.

Stemming criticism

Through their induction, the BJP has sought to reassure the Rajput community over any resentment certain sections may be harbouring after Narpat Singh Rajvi – a five-time MLA and son-in-law of party stalwart Bhairon Singh Shekhawat – hit out at the party leadership when he was denied ticket from Vidyadhar Nagar this time.

Mr. Rajvi implied that the cut was even deeper because Ms. Diya Kumari, Rajsamand MP, has been offered ticket, with age-old resentments against the Jaipur royal family – "conciliatory with the Mughals in North India and having marriage alliances against Rajput pride" – also coming up in public discourse.

According to some accounts, a princess from the Jaipur royal family married Mughal emperor Akbar in the 16th century and Man Singh of Jaipur had served at the Mughal court as a high-ranking courtier.

The BJP feels that the induction of Mr. Vishvaraj, a descendant of Maharana Pratap who resolutely opposed the Mughals, will settle that dispute at least among Rajputs supporting the BJP.

The run-up to the Assembly election seems to be reviving age-old hurts and schisms, with political parties anxious not to let them hurt their chances.

BSP makes a renewed bid in Rajasthan, AIMIM too enters the electoral fray

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Adding an unknown variable to the already complicated political arithmetic of Rajasthan, the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) will make its debut in the Assembly election, while the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), whose six legislators switched to the Congress in 2018, is making a renewed bid to play a crucial role in the "balance of power" with its national president, Mayawati, planning to address eight election rallies across the State.

The AIMIM has so far announced candidates for three seats – Hawa Mahal, Kaman, and Fatehpur – and is planning to contest up to 30 seats here. All these three seats are held by the Congress.

AIMIM national president Asaduddin Owaisi will be in the State on October 21 and 22 for the first round of campaigning. "It is a myth that the Congress works for the Muslims. Rajasthan and Telangana have almost equal proportions of Muslims, but the minority budget in Rajasthan is roughly ₹250 crore, while in Telangana it is ₹2,200 crore. The socio-economic indicators for the Muslim population in the State [of Rajasthan] are below par," Mr. Owaisi told *The Hindu*.

Mayawati

The AIMIM launched its Rajasthan unit only in May 2022 and has not even stood in a local body election in the State so far.

The BSP, meanwhile, has had a presence in the State since 1998. In the 2008 election, the party hit a high with a 7.6% vote share, winning six seats, but its legislators promptly shifted to the Congress. In 2013, its vote share dipped to 3.4%, bringing down the tally to three seats, and in 2018, it registered a small increase, cornering 4% of the vote share but managing to win six seats. Yet, once again, all the legislators switched to the Congress.

To contest all seats

In this election, the party has decided to contest all 200 seats with a special focus on the 60 seats where they believe they are better placed. "The legislators may leave the party, but our voters will not," BSP State president Bhagwan Singh Baba told *The Hindu* when pointed to the persistent trend of its legislators switching sides.

BSP chief Mayawati will be addressing eight rallies between November 17 and 20.

The Congress has questioned the number of rallies that Ms. Mayawati is slated to attend, pointing out that the BSP stayed away from byelections in Uttar Pradesh and she had kept her political engagements limited even during the 2022 Assembly election in that State. "We are not fighting to defeat any one. We are fighting to win," Mr. Baba said adding that no one wil be able to get a majority.

BJP still banking on '*ghar wapsi*' campaigner Dilip Singh Judeo's legacy to gain tribal trust

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Even a decade after his death, the BJP is banking on the legacy of the late Dilip Singh Judeo, a '*ghar wapsi*' campaigner, to revive its fortunes among tribal communities in Chhattisgarh.

The party, which won only two of the 29 tribal seats in the State, has given ticket to Judeo's middle son, Prabal Pratap, and youngest daughter-in-law, Sanyogita Singh Judeo, from Kota and Chandrapur, respectively, with the latter given the safer seat. Both candidates are trying to connect with voters on issues such as conversion and development.

Dilip Singh Judeo was the younger son of Raja Vijay Bhushan Singh Deo, the last prince of Jashpur. He was a two-time Lok Sabha and three-time Rajya Sabha member, who held the Cabinet rank in the A.B. Vajpayee government. According to his family, Judeo, known as the 'tribal king of Chhattisgarh', was the first and only member of a royal family in India to wash the feet of tribal people and bring them back into the Hindu fold. He devoted his life to the '*ghar wapsi*' campaign of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. His downfall began after a sting operation went viral on social media, forcing him to resign.

After his death, Judeo's legacy was taken up by his younger son and the husband of Ms. Sanyogita Singh Judeo, the late Yudhveer Singh Judeo, who won the Chandrapur seat twice, in 2008 and 2013. Yudhveer Singh Deo passed away after a prolonged illness, handing the baton to his wife. She lost in the 2018 election.

"Even after that loss, the RSS believes that only Sanyogita is fit for the Chandrapur seat as her husband did a lot of work here. Chandrapur is also very close to Jashpur, Judeo's *karmabhoomi*, but it's a reserved seat," a BJP functionary said. Mr. Pratap has only a "marginal" presence in State politics, and the two have been selected as candidates because the RSS had more say in ticket distribution this time.

"It was because of Judeo that the BJP had robust support in Chhattisgarh's tribal population. Only his family can revive the lost faith," an RSS office-bearer, who said that many of the Sangh's volunteers had already moved to Chandrapur and Kota to help Judeo's kin in their campaigns.

Mr. Pratap is now the face of the Sangh's '*ghar wapsi*' campaign in the State with a Scheduled Tribes (ST) population of 30.62%. Right-wing groups allege that the STs are undergoing massive conversions.

Mr. Pratap's stature rose in the party last November, when RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat unveiled a statue of Judeo in Jashpur. Addressing his audience, Mr. Bhagwat compared Judeo to Birsa Munda, who is revered by tribal communities. Mr. Bhagwat praised Mr. Pratap for carrying his father's legacy forward.

Couple found dead in J&K

JAMMU

A couple living in the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri was found dead with their throats slit on Tuesday. The police sources said they are also investigating a possible militancy angle owing to heightened militancy this year.

APPEAL

I am 30 years old suffering from B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia and in urgent need of Chemotherapy and Radiation Therapy at Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai. The total expenditure is Rs.16,00,000/-. My family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help me to have a bright future. Donations sent by Ch/D.D. favouring **Meenakshi Mission Hospital & Research Centre, Madurai will be acknowledged.** The donations sent through Ch/D.D/NEFT Transfer & Google Pay (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No.: 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **Women's Welfare Syndicate** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No.GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/ 7338978027. E-Mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.**

Ravi Bhaskar Singh

‘Strengthened, human-rated rocket is ready for Gaganyaan’

ISRO Chairman says hundreds of tests are planned as India prepares to send astronauts into space in 2025; he says it sought a lot of technology from Russia, Europe, and the U.S., but many didn’t come... so the space agency will have to develop systems such as environmental control and life support systems internally; he says the number of astronauts to be sent to orbit in the first attempt is not fixed

INTERVIEW

S. Somanath

T.S. Subramanian

In a crucial step in India’s ambitious programme to lift its astronauts into space, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will test its crew escape system (CES) on October 21.

The flight, which will begin at Sriharikota at 8 a.m., will test if the CES can protect the astronauts should the launch vehicle malfunction. The ISRO has designated this mission TV-D1. It will be uncrewed.

In the ultimate mission that will hoist the astronauts into a low-earth orbit in 2025, the rocket will be the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3). But that on October 21 will be a single-stage rocket powered by liquid propellants. It was purpose-built for the TV-D1 mission and wheeled to the launch pad on October 15. ISRO Chairman S. Somanath spoke about this test, the crew module, and preparations for the human spaceflight programme, aka Gaganyaan. Edited excerpts:

ISRO Chairman S. Somanath and, right, the test crew module. K. MURALI KUMAR, ANI

You will be soon testing the crew escape system of the Gaganyaan project, which will ultimately take Indian astronauts into space. Have you made the LVM-3 rocket more powerful to carry the big crew module?

Gaganyaan has many, many elements [and] components. The rocket is one part of it. The rocket LVM-3, which will take the crew to orbit, is being strengthened. The process of strengthening it is already completed. That is called the ‘human rating’ of the vehicle. It is already over. All systems and engines have been tested and confirmed. So our rocket – human-rated – is virtually completed.

There is another element called the crew module and the crew escape system. The new crew module is under development. It is being tested. There is no capability in India to manufacture it. We have to get it from outside, from Russia, Europe, and America. But many did not come. We only got some items. That is going to take time. So we have to develop systems such as environmental control and life support systems. We call it ‘ECLSS’. That has to be developed internally. We have developed its engineering model. This is basically for controlling the temperature, oxygen, wastage process, vibration, fire hazards, and so many [other] things. We have to make a crew escape system. That is, in the case of any damage to the rocket, the crew will [have to] be taken away from the rocket and saved.

Finally, there is a system called Integrated Vehicle Health Management System, or IVHMS, which has intelligence. It will sense an imminent failure and take abort action. It will autonomously decide. This system is under development. These are new things. We have to test all of them over a period of time.

Hundreds of tests are planned: helicopter-based tests, test-vehicle-based tests, rocket-based tests, abort tests, unmanned [tests], robotic missions, and so on. All these will be done. For the next one year to a year and a half, this will be our programme.

Every day, there is some test happening. Every subsystem and component goes through hundreds of tests. When a major test happens, the press will know about it.

The test vehicle test will happen in October [i.e. October 21]. It will be an abort test.

The launch vehicle will take the unmanned crew module up to a height of 17 km. Then we will say the mission is ‘aborted’. It will [have to] be saved using the crew escape system. It will bring back the module to the sea and we will collect it.

In the real mission, will three Indian astronauts go in the crew module to low-earth orbit?

Finally how many people will go, we will decide later. Not now. We don’t have to send three... We can also send one in the first mission. There is no hurry to send three. We can send one by one. Ultimately, we can send even 10 astronauts. Why limit to three? That is not a measure of anything. If you are able to send a human being into space, that is it.

It depends on our confidence at that point of time... Only when we are very sure of ourselves, we will send human beings into space. Otherwise, we will not do that.

In my opinion, it will take more time than we really thought of. We are not worried about it. What we are worried about is that we should do it right the first time.

The schedule is secondary here. Even if I send a person tomorrow, I am not going to achieve anything other than claim that I have sent this person.

The capability development is most important. Technology development is most important. Some claims I made last year are not important. I am focusing on capability development.

SC reserves its verdict on bail petitions by Sisodia

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday reserved verdict on pleas for regular bail filed by former Delhi Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia, who is facing money laundering charges.

A Bench led by Justice Sanjiv Khanna asked how an offence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) would be made out in the absence of a bribery charge against Mr. Sisodia, who is represented by senior advocate A.M. Singhvi.

“You cannot create a predicate offence in your PMLA case. We cannot go on an assumption,” Justice Khanna told Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, who appeared for the ED.

Modi ‘directs’ ISRO to land man on moon by 2040, work towards interplanetary missions

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

Signalling a road map for India’s future space ambitions, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has “directed” the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to set up an Indian-crafted, indigenous space station by 2035 and land an Indian on the moon by 2040. This followed a review of preparations for the Gaganyaan mission – India’s first manned mission to space, scheduled for 2025 – on Tuesday.

“Building on the success of the Indian space initiatives, including the recent Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya L-1 missions, the Prime Minister said that India should now aim for new and ambitious goals, including setting up a “Bharatiya Antariksha Station” (Indian Space station) by 2035 and sending the first Indian to the moon by 2040,” said a statement from the Prime Minister’s Office.

Narendra Modi chairing a high-level meeting to assess the progress of India’s Gaganyaan Mission, in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Mr. Modi “called upon” scientists to work towards interplanetary missions, including a space vehicle to orbit Venus and one that will land on Mars.

Mr. Modi chaired the meeting to assess the progress of the Gaganyaan mission and outline the future of Indian space exploration. The Department of Space, under which the ISRO functions, presented the state of preparedness and technologies developed for Gaganyaan. A critical test of a module called the Crew Escape System Test vehicle is scheduled for Saturday.

The ISRO, in a separate statement, said the TV-D1 test flight was scheduled between 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. on October 21. It would be a short-duration mission, and visibility from the launch view gallery the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota would be limited. Students and the public could witness the launch free from the gallery by registering on https://lvg.shar.gov.in/VSCREGISTRATION/

The DoS will make a road map for moon exploration, which will consist of a “series of Chandrayaan missions, developing a new generation launch vehicle, constructing a new launch pad, setting up human-centric laboratories and associated technologies,” the PMO statement said.

The International Space Station, developed and maintained by the U.S., Russia, Canada, Japan, and European agencies, is the largest space station but is expected to be decommissioned by 2030.

Experts have said a manned mission to the moon and a space station will require large, sustained investments and significant contribution from the private sector. While space stations and moon missions of the U.S. and Russia were a product of military space races, future space stations will need to follow a different template, an expert connected to the ISRO told *The Hindu* on condition of anonymity.

(With inputs from Bengaluru Bureau)

INBRIEF

LS Speaker refers complaint against Moitra to ethics panel

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has referred BJP MP Nishikant Dubey’s “bribe-for-query” complaint against Trinamool Congress member Mahua Moitra to the Ethics Committee of the Lower House. Mr. Dubey has accused Ms. Moitra of taking “bribes” from a businessman to ask questions in Parliament and urged Mr. Birla to constitute an “inquiry committee” to look into the charges against her. Ms. Moitra moved the Delhi High Court seeking to restrain Mr. Nishikant Dubey, advocate Jai Anant Dehadrai, and several social media platforms and media houses from posting, circulating or publishing any fake and defamatory content against her.

NC, Congress to rotate CEC post in Kargil hill council

The National Conference (NC) and Congress on Tuesday agreed to rotate the post of Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council-Kargil (LAHDC-K), with the former slated to get the first term on Wednesday. The name of NC leader Mohammad Jaffer Akhoon, a retired Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and brother of senior NC leader Qamar Ali Akhoon, has been proposed for the post of CEC. Dr. Akhoon won the hill council elections from the Thasgam-Thuina constituency.

SC gives Maharashtra Speaker chance to set time for hearing

The Supreme Court on Tuesday gave Maharashtra Assembly Speaker Rahul Narwekar a final opportunity to frame a realistic time schedule to hear and decide the anti-defection proceedings against Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and other MLAs. In the previous hearing, a three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud had slammed the Speaker for reducing the proceedings to a “charade” by “merrily” deferring hearings. The court posted the case for its next hearing on October 30.

Centre sanctions Deepavali bonus for govt. employees

The Central government on Tuesday sanctioned Deepavali bonuses for Group C and non-gazetted Group B employees. The bonus, an annual affair before every Deepavali, will have an upper limit of ₹7,000. The bonus will be admissible to the eligible employees of Central Paramilitary Forces and armed forces. The order by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance said that only those employees who were in service as of March 31, 2023 and have rendered at least six months of continuous service during the year 2022-23 will be eligible for the payment.

Not in receipt of funds from any govt. or party: Singham

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Shanghai-based American millionaire Neville Roy Singham, who is being investigated by multiple enforcement agencies under various penal laws, has denied the allegations levelled against him.

“On August 5, the *New York Times* (*NYT*) ran a misleading and innuendo-laden hit piece on me and others that, among other things, provoked a firestorm in India and inflamed the situation regarding the Indian news website portal *NewsClick*,” he said in a statement, adding that 12 days later the Delhi Police Special Cell registered an FIR.

“Full of defamatory allegations and factual errors, the FIR led to the interrogation of nearly 100 journalists, the detention of dozens, and the eventual arrest of two people on October 3. After the arrests, the FIR entered the public domain, the release of which is damaging to me and many others. The language used in the FIR strongly suggests that its claims were influenced by misinformation from the *NYT* article,” he said.

Stating that the news of the arrests and detentions shocked and saddened him, Mr. Singham said, “I am disappointed that this is happening in India, a country close to Sri Lanka, the ancestral home of my father, Archibald W. Singham (1932-1991), a participant in and historian of the Non-Aligned Movement. I write this as someone who dearly loves India, having had a long-standing relationship with the country.”

About the funding to *NewsClick*, he said Jason Pfetcher (a co-accused), manager of U.S.-based Worldwide Media Holdings LLC that made an investment, had issued a statement repudiating “false” allegations. Mr. Singham rejected the charge that he received funds from any government or political party, including China and the Communist Party of China.

“Other than Thought-Works – which had some government clients over the years – I have never received funding from any government or political party,” he said.

President gives away film awards; actor Waheeda Rehman gets Phalke Award

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu gave away the national film awards for 2021 under various categories at the 69th edition of the ceremony on Tuesday. The prestigious Dada Saheb Phalke Award was conferred on veteran actor Waheeda Rehman.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said Ms. Rehman had established herself at the pinnacle of the film industry with her art and personality. Even in her personal life, she had made her mark as a woman of dignity, self-confidence and originality. She set an example that women themselves should also take the initiative for women empowerment. Ms. Murmu also congratulated the other awardees. She said the award ceremony painted a picture of diversity of India and the unity inherent in it.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur said: “Today nothing is regional, if the content is good, regional content will find the global audience.” He said the government stood shoulder to shoulder with the industry in its efforts to counter movie piracy and it had brought in the Cinematograph Act, which was a big step in curbing the menace.

Droupadi Murmu presents the Phalke Award to Waheeda Rehman at the 69th National Film Awards on Tuesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

S.S. Rajamouli’s blockbuster *RRR* took away six awards and *Gangubai Kathiawadi* by Sanjay Leela Bhansali bagged awards in five categories. *Rocketry: The Nambi Effect* got the award for the best feature film.

The best male actor award went to Allu Arjun for *Pushpa (The Rise Part 1)*. Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon shared the best female actor award for *Gangubai Kathiawadi* and *Mimi*, respectively.

Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri-directed *The Kashmir Files* bagged the Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration. The Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director was given to *Meppadiyan* and the Best Direction to *Godavari (The Holy Water)*.

RRR also got the award for the best popular film providing entertainment.

Centre issues guidelines to set up 822 selfie points

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has issued detailed guidelines to all its departments for the development of selfie points to showcase good works done or being done. The guidelines issued suggest 822 selfie points that “may contain” a picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and must be prepared in a way that “enables the people to get the feeling of being a part of the initiative”.

To showcase the growth in innovation, digital selfie points, displaying artificial intelligence techniques, may also be installed to attract the youth, the guidelines say.

The suggested locations include war memorials, defence museums, railway, metro and bus stations, schools, colleges, tourist destinations and festival gatherings.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the government was trying to use the Army’s popularity for “elections” and alleged that it is something that “no government has done in the past 75 years”.

INBRIEF

Institution of marriage has undergone sea change: SC

From sati to interfaith marriages, the institution of marriage has undergone a sea change, the Supreme Court said on Tuesday while asserting that it is incorrect to characterise marriage as a static, stagnant or an unchanging institution. Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud said there is no universal conception of marriage and it is understood differently in law, in religion, and in culture. Some religions consider marriage a sacrament while others consider it a contract, he wrote. The Chief Justice said while marriage is a voluntary union – of the mind, the body, and the soul – it signifies a deep and abiding commitment to one another and a devotion to the relationship. PTI

RSS, VHP welcome SC verdict on same-sex marriage

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and its affiliate Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) welcomed the Supreme Court's majority view which held that non-heterosexual couples cannot claim an unqualified right to marry. The Sangh, which since the beginning had maintained that LGBTQ relationship is a 'disorder', had attempted to evolve with time and give 'acceptance' to queer couples but its affiliates have always remained reluctant in engaging on this issue. Minutes after the five-judge Bench's judgment on same-sex marriage was announced, the RSS's publicity in-charge, Sunil Ambekar took to X (formerly Twitter) and said that the decision is welcome. "Our democratic parliamentary system can seriously discuss all the issues related to this and take appropriate decisions," he added. Alok Kumar, the central working president of the VHP also issued a press statement welcoming the SC's verdict to not to give legal recognition to gay marriage and adoption.

SC divided on allowing unmarried couples to adopt children jointly

Chief Justice held that Regulation 5(3) of Adoption Regulations was *ultra vires* the JJ Act and violative of the fundamental rights; Justices Bhat, Kohli and Narasimha said the Rule was not void

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Hope and despair: Members of the LGBTQIA community watching the Supreme Court proceedings on television in Mumbai on Tuesday. EMMANUAL YOGINI

The Constitution Bench, which delivered a majority judgment in the same-sex marriage case on Tuesday, was divided in its opinions on whether unmarried couples, including same-sex partners, can jointly adopt children.

Chief Justice D.Y. Chandrachud held that Regulation 5(3) of the Adoption Regulations, which bars unmarried partners from being prospective adoptive parents, was *ultra vires* the Juvenile Justice (JJ) Act and violative of the fundamental rights of queer couples.

"These regulations only permit persons to adopt in an individual capacity and not jointly as an unmarried couple," Chief Justice Chandrachud observed.

The majority views of Justices S.R. Bhat, Hima Kohli and P.S. Narasimha, however, said the regulation was not void.

Justice Bhat said that the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) and the Centre should appropriately consider the realities of *de facto* families, where single individuals were permitted to adopt and then start living in a non-matrimonial relationship.

"In an unforeseen eventuality, the adopted child in question could face exclusion from the benefits otherwise available to adopted children of married couples. This aspect needs further consideration, for which the court is not the appropriate forum," he said.

Chief Justice Chandrachud noted that Regulation 5(3) in express terms excluded unmarried couples from adopting by prescribing the condition that the couple must have been in two years of a "stable marital relationship".

He observed that the JJ Act, however, did not preclude unmarried couples from adopting.

He noted that the assumption that only married couples could provide a stable environment to children was not backed by data. "Unmarried relationships cannot be characterised as fleeting relationships which are unstable by their very nature. Marriage is not necessarily the bedrock on which families and households are built," he noted.

"It is clarified that the reference to a 'couple' in Regulation 5 includes both married and unmarried couples, including queer couples. In bringing the regulations in conformity with this judgment, the CARA is at liberty to ensure that the conditions which it prescribes for a valid adoption subserve the best interest and welfare of the child. The welfare of the child is of paramount importance. Hence, the authorities would be at liberty to ensure that the familial circumstances provide a safe, stable and conducive environment to protect the material wellbeing and emotional sustenance of the child," the CJI said.

(*With PTI inputs*)

'Transpersons have right to marry under existing law'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Experts welcome the SC decision, saying it is step forward, though it falls short of expectation

The Supreme Court on Tuesday held that transgender persons in heterosexual relationships have the right to marry under existing law.

A Constitution Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud held that "transgender persons in heterosexual relationships have the freedom and entitlement to marry under the existing statutory provisions".

"The gender of a person is not the same as their sexuality. A person is a transgender person by virtue of their gender identity. A transgender person may be heterosexual or homosexual or of any other sexuality. If a transgender person is in a heterosexual relationship and wishes to marry their partner (and if each of them meets the other requirements set out in the applicable law), such a marriage would be recognised by the laws governing marriage," the Chief Justice held in his opinion.

Since a transgender person can be in a heterosexual relationship like a cis-male or cis-female, a union between a transwoman and a transman, or a transwoman and a cisman, or a transman and a ciswoman can be registered under marriage laws, he said.

"A transgender man has the right to marry a cisgender woman under the laws governing marriage in the country, including personal laws. Similarly, a transgender woman has the right to marry a cisgender man. A transgender man and a transgender woman can also marry," the Chief Justice held.

Meanwhile, legal experts said the Supreme Court's order on the issue of granting legal recognition to same-sex marriages, though below expectations, is a welcome step forward in the law's march towards recognising the rights of persons from the LGBTQIA community.

"Obviously, it falls below expectations," senior advocate Sanjoy Ghose said, quickly adding that the top court's landmark ruling nonetheless finds that the community's demand for legal recognition to their union as a civil union or marriage is not frivolous and rather a "baby step" in the right direction.

"It is one step ahead of the stage where you (first) decriminalise homosexuality and now, you are moving towards recognising [their union]. The orders fall far below expectations. Something positive at least all five (judges) were united that this is not a frivolous demand," he said.

(*With PTI inputs*)

'Stood with citizens to shield rights, choices'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Tuesday said it was studying the different judgments of the Supreme Court on the same-sex marriage case, but asserted that it has always stood for protecting a citizen's "freedoms, choices and rights".

A five-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court refused to grant legal recognition to same-sex marriages by a 3:2 majority. However, there were four different judgments by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, and Justices Sanjay Kishan Kaul, S. Ravindra Bhat and P.S. Narasimha. Justice Hima Kohli, who was also a part of the Bench, concurred with Justice Bhat's judgment.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh said, "On the same-sex marriage and related issues we are studying the different and differing judgments delivered in the Supreme Court today and will have a detailed response subsequently." "Indian National Congress has always stood with all our citizens to protect their freedoms, choices, liberties and rights. We, as a party of inclusion, firmly believe in non-discriminatory processes – judicial, social, and political," he added.

Dejected and disappointed, activists say fight will go on

Abhinay Lakshman
Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

Members of the LGBTQIA community listening to the hearing of SC's verdict on same-sex marriage. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

As the Supreme Court's Constitution Bench, led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, began pronouncing its judgment in the historic marriage equality case, Kajal and Bhawna waited with bated breath, along with the 19 other petitioners in the case and queer people across the country. A lesbian couple currently on the run and forced to hide their relationships in their own hometowns, the pair battled confusion, fear and anxiety as the judgments started coming through, only to be left disappointed as soon as they realised what it meant.

"Leaving it to Parliament to decide the fate of our future seems unfair," said Ms. Kajal, who hails from a Tier-2 city in northern India.

Queer couples, petitioners, and activists who spoke to *The Hindu* said that disappointment was "an understatement" as a description of their feelings. Transgender persons said the recognition of same-sex marriages would have meant so much more for their community, given how routine violence is from their native families.

LGBTQIA activists and legal experts added that whatever recognitions have been granted in the minority judgments were good and welcome but "not enough", noting that most of it had been laid down in previous judgments and had been said before. But activists across the board maintained that they will continue fighting for their rights.

Supriyo Chakraborty, the lead petitioner in the case, told *The Hindu*, "We are deeply disappointed by the judgment today. Though the court has reiterated that queer people have the right to form relationships, they stopped well short of legal recognition. On a personal level, we feel proud that we fought this battle. Though we lost, lots of dinner table conversations were initiated because of this case. We remain hopeful that one day, we will have full marriage equality."

Muskan Tibrewala, one of the few queer lawyers who argued in the case, however, said that all the work and the hours of putting up with dehumanising arguments in the Supreme Court had now gone to waste. "Considering that the government has not been supportive of our rights, and historically the Supreme Court being the upholder of queer rights, the SC has failed to deliver on its responsibilities," added Ms. Tibrewala.

But even for queer couples who are not currently thinking about marriage or children, the judgment came as a blow, even if not an unexpected one.

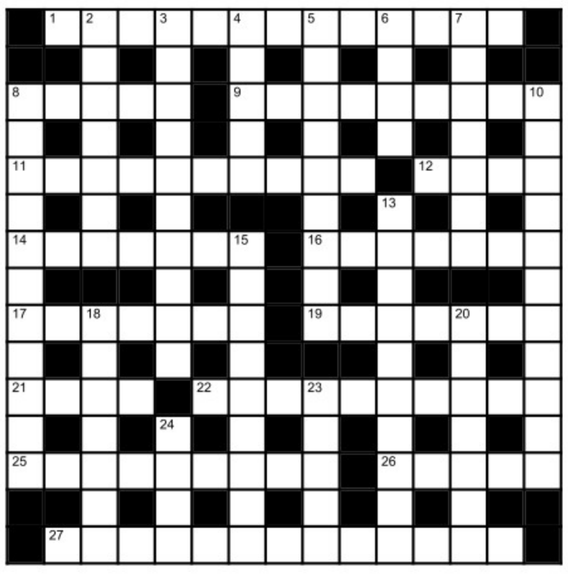
"The Supreme Court knows full well that the government is opposed to the idea of giving us our rights. Even then, how can they hand it back to a government committee – especially one that will most likely end up having cisgendered people in decision-making positions," Grace Banu, a trans activist based in Tamil Nadu, added. "... in small towns like ours, the family's wish gets precedence over our rights and the police force has never been in our favour," said Ms. Bhawna. "Had the Supreme Court pronounced the judgment in our favour it would have made our fight against our families much easier and there would be no need for police intervention," added Ms. Kajal.

TH CROSSWORD + 13998

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Unrestrained on LSD, boarder goes berserk outside hotel (2-5-6)
8 Charge to hire a taxi (5)
9 Act on oral disorder affecting this? (4,5)
11 Dazzling India getting spin on track (10)
12 Bug on a bark of the paper mulberry (4)
14 Hunk removing clothes in wild farewell function (7)
16 Requires stylish models to entertain spectators at inauguration (7)
17 Excitement of a character briefly touring America (7)
19 Listens secretly with a small wire fixed over top of grate (7)
21 Bowling at Edgbaston, takes wicket (4)
22 One who talks condescendingly with prisoner at compound (10)
25 Turned merrier after receiving a diamond and got hitched again (9)
26 Pale and miserable, needs Sun (5)
27 Available to take dear female on trips finally (4,3,3,3)

Down

2 Broadcast on air about duct largely relating to female reproductive system (7)
3 How football centre-forward might receive the ball dishonestly (2,3,5)
4 Theoretical physicist is clear about advanced principle of calculus (5)
5 Food in summit - delightful sandwiches, starter of ravioli (5,4)
6 Stress fracture needs cast initially (4)
7 Sets of nine points describing detailed approach (7)
8 Most tentative captain of Hyderabad caught by slip in exciting climax (11)
10 A lady stares naughtily and seduces (5,6)
13 One observing movement of star, moon and asteroid at Centre (10)
15 First off, happiness after overcoming each and every speech defect (9)
18 Saw revolutionary article relating to the Turkish Empire (7)
20 Stallion gambolling round abandoned site (7)
23 Done with endless fight over affair (3,2)
24 Enthralled by beer, fellow turned generous (4)

SUDOKU

	1				6		4	
3		9	8					
	5	4						1
		6	7	1				
7	4						6	8
				6	2	5		
2						9	5	
					3	1		2
	8		2				3	

No.SS5952 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	P	U	S	C	R	I	E	
B	L	I	G	H	T	L	E	A
R	N	I	N	G	E	L	R	O
M	V	D	C	A	P	I	T	A
L	S	B	R	A	Z	I	L	S
E	I	E	U	D	N	S	C	U
R	R	E	N	T	S	T	H	I
N	G	S	R	T	A	N	B	E
N	E	F	I	T	K	N	I	G
H	T	S	N	C	R	R	B	O
T	T	L	E	E	L	E	C	T
R	O	N	R	I	B	A	A	H
U	F	I	E	R	C	E	D	E
S	C	R	I	B	E	G	E	R
E	E	E	L	V	I	L	L	A
G	E	R	L	E	A	D	E	R
N	Y	S	S	S	D	S		

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	6	1	3	5	4	9	8	2
9	3	8	7	1	2	6	5	4
2	5	4	9	8	6	7	1	3
8	4	5	6	7	3	1	2	9
1	2	7	4	9	8	5	3	6
3	9	6	1	2	5	4	7	8
4	1	3	8	6	7	2	9	5
6	7	2	5	3	9	8	4	1
5	8	9	2	4	1	3	6	7

FAITH

Wealth and wellness

Everyone seeks knowledge, wealth, health and prosperity. The way to attain the same is through specific prayers, especially during the festival of Navaratri, Prabha Senesh said in a discourse.

For four days from the fourth day of Navaratri, devotees visualise God in archa nilai, the state in which He is worshipped in various temples, and pray to His Consort. The first of them is Sri Ranganathar Temple at Srirangam.

We may repent and gain Lakshmi's favour. Kshatrabandhu was a cruel ruler who remained so even in old age. However, on one occasion, he saved the life of a maharishi, who then assumed the role of a guru and advised him to seek forgiveness. The repentant king prayed to Lakshmi and received Her kadaksham, as recorded in the 50th sloka of Dayasatakam, which is to be recited on the fifth day.

On the sixth day, one should pray to Kanchi Perundevi Thayyar.

Wealth without knowledge is useless. On the seventh day of Navaratri, one should pray to Srivilliputtur Andal, reciting the fourth sloka from the Godastuti. It is only through Her help that one can expand one's knowledge, prosper professionally, and also gain gnana, in order to attain moksha.

INBRIEF

redRail makes real-time train info accessible via WhatsApp

redRail, the rail ticketing platform from redBus and an IRCTC authorised partner, said on Tuesday that passengers can now access updates on their journeys including live train status, PNR status movements, coach position, platform number, and train schedule, through WhatsApp. The details can be accessed by sending a 'Hi' to redRail's Railbot number (+91 9538039911), the company said.

Glenmark's psoriatic arthritis generic gets U.S. FDA nod

Glenmark Pharmaceuticals' Apremilast Tablets, 10 mg, 20 mg and 30 mg, a generic version of Amgen's Otezla Tablets, 10 mg, 20 mg and 30 mg, has received final approval from the United States Food and Drug Administration (U.S. FDA). Otezla Tablets brand and therapeutic equivalents achieved annual sales of about $3.7 billion, Glenmark said, citing IQVIA sales data for the 12-month period ended August 2023.

Amul's 'Be More Milk' goes global at Time Square

Amul said its 'Be More Milk' campaign had made a big splash at New York's Time Square, the world-famous intersection that sports massive digital screens. The campaign displayed the 'Be More Milk' message in a colourful and animated billboard that grabbed the attention of passersby and lit up the iconic intersection in a unique way, Amul said, adding that 'Be More Milk' creatively depicts milk in a "new and young avatar."

U.S., China chafe at India's curbs on laptop, PC imports

U.S. says decision will impact trade in these products, including its exports to India, when implemented; Seoul says measures inconsistent with WTO rules, seeks review of decision

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The U.S., China, South Korea and Chinese Taipei have raised concerns on India's decision to impose import restrictions on laptops, and computers, in a meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO), an official said. The concern was flagged in the meeting of WTO's Committee on Market Access on Monday in Geneva.

The U.S. said that the decision will have an impact on trade of these products, including U.S.'s exports to India, when implemented, the Geneva-based official said.

On August 3, India imposed import restrictions on a host of IT hardware products such as laptops, personal computers, tablets), and large or mainframe computers with a view to spur domestic manufacturing and cut imports from countries like China. The regime would take effect November 1.

However, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal last week said India would not impose licensing requirements but would only monitor imports.

South Korea has stressed that the proposed measures by India seem inconsistent with WTO rules.

Seoul requested India to reconsider the measures and to provide detailed clarification on this issue.

Raising walls

The U.S., China, S. Korea and Taiwan expressed anxiety at a WTO panel meeting over India's new curbs on computer imports

- Seoul requested India to reconsider implementation of curbs, provide detailed clarification
- Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal had last week said India would not impose licensing requirement on imports but would only monitor them

- India imported personal computers, including laptops, worth $5.33 bn in FY23, compared with $7.37 bn in FY22

Regulators said to inquire funds' rules violations

Reuters

Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are investigating a dozen cases of alternate investment funds (AIFs) allegedly being misused to circumvent regulations, including "evergreening" of stressed loans, according to sources with knowledge of the matter.

SEBI has detected cases involving ₹150-200 billion ($1.8-2.4 billion) where AIFs have been misused to circumvent rules, including the RBI, one source said. The investigations could lead to increased disclosures for such funds.

L&T Tech Services Q2 net profit rises 5%

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

L&T Technology Services (LTTS), an engineering services firm posted a net profit of ₹315 crore for the second quarter of FY24, a 5% growth from a year earlier. It also recorded a 5% increase in revenue to ₹2,387 crore.

During the quarter, LTTS won seven deals worth more than $10 million across industry segments. Six of them were valued at $15 million each.

"We had revenue growing by 3.2% sequentially in constant currency even as we absorbed wage hikes for our employees," said CEO Amit Chadha, in his commentary on Tuesday.

Going forward, LTTS would invest in software defined vehicles, artificial intelligence and cybersecurity and would have close to 2,000 employees trained in these expertise over the next few quarters, Mr. Chadha added.

Modi unveils long-term blueprint for India's maritime economy

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday unveiled the 'Amrit Kaal Vision 2047', a long-term blueprint for the Indian maritime blue economy, while inaugurating Global Maritime India Summit 2023 in Mumbai through video conference.

The blueprint outlines strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing port facilities, promoting sustainable practices, and facilitating global collaboration.

Narendra Modi

Underscoring the role of sea routes in global trade, he emphasised the need for a reliable global supply chain in the post-corona world. Mr. Modi reiterated that investors have a 'great opportunity' to become part of this campaign.

In the last decade, the capacity of major ports in India has doubled, and the turnaround time for big vessels has come down to less than 24 hours compared with 42 hours.

Mr. Modi laid the foundation stone for projects worth more than ₹23,000 crore that align with India's maritime blue economy.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	66,428	0.39
US Dollar	83.25	0.02
Gold	60,150	0.00
Brent oil	89.26	-0.95

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2428.40	-0.95
Adani Ports	805.10	-0.55
Apollo Hosp	5028.80	7.10
Asian Paints	3113.55	1.50
Axis Bank	1008.05	3.25
Bajaj Auto	5141.25	64.55
Bajaj Finserv	1657.65	15.30
Bajaj Finance	8093.00	57.00
Bharti Airtel	953.65	7.10
BPCL	354.70	7.45
Britannia Ind	4600.35	14.30
Cipla	1173.50	9.10
Coal India	317.40	5.40
Divis Lab	3646.60	-8.60
Dr Reddys Lab	5544.10	51.00
Eicher Motors	3500.85	14.25
Grasim Ind	1974.45	0.75
HCL Tech	1277.15	6.50
HDFC Bank	1541.20	11.60
HDFC Life	641.80	11.75
Hero MotoCorp	3172.95	11.95
Hindalco	484.35	0.95
Hind Unilever	2556.15	-2.15
ICICI Bank	953.90	2.50
IndusInd Bank	1436.00	-10.40
Infosys	1442.45	8.30
ITC	453.45	4.50
JSW Steel	790.15	-0.55
Kotak Bank	1771.55	21.80
L&T	3066.30	-35.60
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5213.75	51.30
M&M	1576.60	2.05
Maruti Suzuki	10750.80	46.30
NestleIndia	23325.30	216.75
NTPC	245.95	2.50
ONGC	186.25	-0.30
PowerGrid Corp	207.15	4.10
Reliance Ind	2355.25	11.20
SBI Life	1348.35	26.15
State Bank	576.45	0.80
Sun Pharma	1136.80	1.50
TataConsumerProduct	907.85	-0.75
Tata Motors	655.70	-10.50
Tata Steel	127.40	0.40
TCS	3507.05	-17.00
Tech Mahindra	1197.60	13.00
Titan	3308.45	7.05
UltraTech Cement	8301.40	9.20
UPL	624.90	-6.05
Wipro	411.40	1.20

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 17

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.06	83.38
Euro	87.69	88.03
British Pound	101.03	101.43
Japanese Yen (100)	55.49	55.71
Chinese Yuan	11.36	11.40
Swiss Franc	92.15	92.51
Singapore Dollar	60.64	60.89
Canadian Dollar	60.92	61.16
Malaysian Ringitt	17.53	17.61
Australian Dollar	52.77	52.98

Source:Indian Bank

Tata Elxsi Q2 net profit rises 14.8% to ₹200 crore

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tata Elxsi, a design and technology services provider, reported a 14.8% increase in Q2 net profit to ₹200 crore over last year.

The company posted a revenue of ₹881.7 crore, a 15.5% growth from the year-earlier quarter.

Transportation business grew 26.1% year-on-year, aided by large deals and strong traction in software defined vehicle engagements, the company said.

"Our transportation business, which accounts for 46.2% of the revenue coming from three verticals, witnessed a strong growth of 7.1% Q-o-Q and 26.1% Y-o-Y," said MD & CEO Manoj Raghavan.

Bajaj Finance Q2 net profit rises 28%, provisions increase

Reuters
BENGALURU

The non-bank lender said it would acquire 26% stake in Pennant Technologies for ₹267 crore

Non-bank lender Bajaj Finance reported a smaller-than-expected rise in second-quarter profit on Tuesday, as provisions for bad loans increased. The company's consolidated profit after tax rose nearly 28% to ₹35.51 billion in the three months ended September, missing analysts' average estimate of ₹35.85, according to LSEG data.

Loan losses and provisions grew almost 47% to ₹10.77 billion. Gross non-performing asset ratio deteriorated to 0.91%, from 0.87% at the end of June.

Ahead of the board meeting to take on record the results, the company said it was acquiring 26% equity stake in Hyderabad-based fintech solutions provider Pennant Technologies for ₹267.50 crore.

The move is aimed at strengthening the company's technology roadmap, Bajaj Finance said in a filing on Tuesday.

Set up in 2005, Pennant provides technology services and software products for the banking and financial services industry.

(With inputs from N. Ravi Kumar in Hyderabad)

FinMin urges more cashless options in health covers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Tuesday asked general insurance firms to increase cashless facilities for health insurance users and standardise treatment costs in tandem with the Union Ministry of Health to expand medical care covers in the country.

Covering MSMEs also figured in parleys held by the Department of Financial Services Secretary Vivek Joshi with the General Insurance Council and CEOs of private sector players.

Insurers were also nudged to increase adoption of property covers, especially to mitigate losses from natural catastrophes.

'India to double infra spend to ₹143 lakh cr'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India will spend close to ₹143 lakh crore on infrastructure between fiscals 2024 and 2030, more than twice the ₹67 lakh crore spent in the past seven financial years starting 2017, rating agency Crisil said on Tuesday.

Of the total, ₹36.6 lakh crore will be 'green' investments, marking a five-time rise compared with the amount spent during fiscals 2017-2023, it added.

"India's infrastructure spending will double to ₹143 lakh crore between fiscals 2024 and 2030, compared with 2017-2023," the agency said in its Infrastructure Yearbook 2023.

Crisil MD and CEO Amish Mehta said the agency expects India's gross domestic product to grow at an average of 6.7% through fiscal 2031, to be the fastest-expanding large economy.

"Per capita income is seen rising from $2,500 now to $4,500 by 2031, creating a middle-income country," he said, adding that this growth will be underpinned by massive infrastructure development.

'Branded teas seeing single-digit recovery'

Mini Tejaswi
COORG

The branded tea sector, which witnessed headwinds on inflationary pressures and subsequent decline in rural consumption until December last year, is now slowly improving, according to Puneet Das, president-Packaged Beverages (India and South Asia), Tata Consumer Products.

However, the segment was still not out of woods, he added.

"Tea, actually till last December, went through a bit of a headwind due to higher inflation and rural consumption was also impacted," Mr. Das said. "From December, sequential growth started coming back slowly to the tea portfolio. We are seeing headwinds easing and rural consumption slowly coming back; still the segment is not out of the woods," he told *The Hindu*.

Puneet Das

The company reported a 3% growth in tea sales volume and 2% growth in revenue in the first quarter of FY24, he said, adding that the firm had been witnessing growth in its premium segment.

MISSING

Ashamol, age 45, D/o Rajamma, Thiruvathira House, Vanaswargam, Kanjikuzhy PW-12 Alappuzha district has been missing from 09.09.2023 and she has not returned so far. Hence if any information is received about her, please inform to the nearest Police Station or below mentioned phone numbers.

Description
Height :165 Cm, Complexion: Brown, Body Shape :Fat

Contact number
SHO Mararikulam P S : 9497987064
DySP, Alappuzha : 9497990041
District Police Chief, Alappuzha :9497996982
(RO/02460/F2/2023/I&PRD)

Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD)
(Institution of National Importance by the Act of Parliament No : 35/2012)
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India
Sriperumbudur - 602 105, Tamil Nadu

Recruitment of Registrar and Assistant Registrar (on deputation basis)

Advt. No : RGNIYD/Esst./NT-Deputation/2023-24/004

Applications are invited from Indian Nationals possessing excellent academic record and relevant work experience for the post of Registrar (on deputation) and Assistant Registrar (on deputation) in RGNIYD Sriperumbudur. Application and the details of qualification, experience and instructions to the candidates are available in the Institute's website: **www.rgniyd.gov.in**.

Assistant Registrar

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
MARKETING DEPARTMENT e-Procurement Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited for supply of **"1,50,000 Nos of Biocompostable garbage bags (drum covers) through e-tenders-cum-e-reverse tendering"** to the Marketing Department, T.T.Devasthanams. For Tender Notice and tender details log on to the web site **hhtp://www.tirumala.org** and **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in.** For further details contact phone numbers: **0877-2264079, 2264555, Fax No.0877-2264554.**

Roc.No.PR4/13959/Adv.No.229/PRO/2023, Dated:17-10-2023 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala - 147001)
Corporate Identity Number U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in
(Mobile No. 96461-55525)

Press Tender Enq. No. 494/P-3/EMPW-12464 dated 13.10.2023.
Dy. Chief Engineer/ Headquarter (Procurement Cell-1) GGSSTP, Roopnagar invites Press Tender for Online Setting of safety valves set pressure by trevitest method of 2*10MW BHEL make Unit-4 & 5 at GGSSTP Ropar.
For detailed NIT & Tender Specification please refer to **www.pspcl.in**
Note:- Corrigendum & addendum, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**
RTP-119/23 **76155/12/2298/2023/28931**

BENGALURU METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Stores & Purchase Department, Central Offices, K.H. Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
No: BMTC/CO/COSP/TENDER/09/2023-24 Date: 16.10.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender is invited through KPPP portal for the following Service/goods:

Sl. No.	Tender No.	Description	Last date for bid submission in KPPP portal
Regular Tender			
01	BMTC/2023-24/SE0151	Selection of an agency for providing functional audit of BMTC Mobile App with Women safety feature, in-bus surveillance system in City buses and Passenger Information System (PIS) Display Systems at Bus stops/Stations application developed under Nirbhaya scheme	03.11.2023 @14.30Hrs.
02	BMTC/2023-24/IND0013	Procurement of Drill Bits	06.11.2023 @14.30Hrs.
03	BMTC/2023-24/IND0022	Procurement of Buffing Machine and Curing Rims.	06.11.2023 @14.30Hrs.
04	BMTC/2023-24/IND0023	Procurement of Starter spares and Modulator kits required for Volvo Vehicles	06.11.2023 @14.30Hrs.

*For more details visit **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- CONTROLLER OF STORES AND PURCHASES (Tender Inviting Authority)

जवाहरलाल नेहरू उन्नत वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान केंद्र (ज.ने.उ.वै.अ.के.)
(विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग, भारत सरकार के अधीन एक स्वायत्त संस्था तथा निम्न विश्वविद्यालय संस्था)
Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR)
An Autonomous Institute under Dept. of Science & Technology, Govt. of India
An Institution Deemed-to-be University

Advertisement No- JNC/AO/No.05/2023 16 October 2023

MID-YEAR ADMISSIONS 2023 - 24

JNCASR invites applications for admission to **Research Programmes [Ph.D. /M.S. (Engg.) / M.S. (Research)]** in Sciences and Engineering from candidates who have qualified in any one of the national exams: GATE/ JEST/GPAT/UGC-JRF/CSIR-JRF/ICMR-JRF/DBT-JRF/ INSPIRE-JRF.

Applicants are advised to visit the website **https://www.jncasr.ac.in/admission/degree-programmes** for detailed information about the programmes, eligibility criteria, etc. The last date for submission of online applications is **14.11.2023**.

Sd/-
Academic Coordinator

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E TENDER NOTICE
Office of the Executive Engineer, SHEP Poringalkuthu, Anakkayam,Thrissur
E-Tender ID : 2023_KSEB_612934_2
PAC - Rs.1,11,00,000/-, **Last date :** 25.10.2023 05.00 pm
Office of the Chief Engineer, Generation Wing, Moolamattom, Idukki
E-Tender ID : 2023_KSEB_612677
PAC - Rs.9,74,04,600/-, **Last date :** 13.11.2023 11.00 am
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
Ref: PR /MC1 /E435/ E- Tender /2023

V.O.CHIDAMBARANAR PORT AUTHORITY
Mechanical & Electrical Engineering Department

E-Tender - NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)

No. MEE/CMEP1/MEC/4HMC/V1/23 (1792) Dated :17/10/2023

1	Tender No.	MEE/CMEP1/MEC/4HMC/V1/23
2	Name of work	Deployment of 4 numbers of HMCs of not older than 10 years with 120-Ton capacity or above at VOC Port operated berths on License mode for a period of 5 years
3	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs.61,62,720/-(Rupees sixty one lakhs sixty two thousand seven hundred and twenty only. Refer EMD Clause
4	Downloading of Tender document from VOCPA e-tendering website	18.10.2023 to 07.11.2023
5	Last date for receipt of queries	24.10.2023
6	Pre bid meeting	25.10.2023
7	Bid Submission end date & time	07.11.2023 at 15:00 hours
8	Bid opening date & time	08.11.2023 at 15:30 hours

For further details, visit Port website www.vocport.gov.in & VOCPA E-Tendering Website https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app

Sd/-
CHIEF MECHANICAL ENGINEER

JERUSALEM

U.S. President Biden to visit Israel as Gaza ground invasion looms

AP

U.S. President Joe Biden will visit Israel on Wednesday in a show of "ironclad" support as Washington tries to prevent the escalating war against Hamas in Gaza from spilling into a wider Middle East conflict. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Biden's visit would be a statement of "solidarity with Israel". AFP

KIRYAT SHMONA

Israel Army thwarts infiltration bid from Lebanon, killing four

REUTERS

Israeli troops killed four militants attempting to enter its territory from Lebanon on Tuesday, the army said, as tensions run high on the border between the two countries. Israel has traded fire with Hezbollah and allied Palestinian militants in Lebanon on a near-daily basis since October 8. a day after the Hamas attack. AFP

BERLIN

West Asia is 'on the brink of abyss', Jordanian king says in Germany

AFP

Jordanian King Abdullah II (left in picture) on Tuesday warned of a dire situation in West Asia if the conflict between Israel and Hamas is allowed to spread to other countries. "The whole region is on the brink of falling into the abyss," King Abdullah said after meeting German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Berlin. AFP

TEHRAN

'No one can stop' resistance if Israel keeps bombing Gaza: Iran

AP

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned that "no one can stop" forces opposed to Israel if it keeps up its bombardment of Gaza in response to the attack by Hamas. "If the crimes of the Zionist (Israeli) regime continue, Muslims and resistance forces will become impatient, and no one can stop them," Khamenei said. AFP

Xi welcomes 'dear friend' Putin to Beijing

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Chinese leader Xi Jinping welcomed his "dear friend" Russian President Vladimir Putin to Beijing on Tuesday, kicking off a multilateral summit overshadowed by the Israel-Hamas war.

Beijing this week hosts representatives of 130 countries for a forum on the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

At the top of the guest list is Mr. Putin, who is on his first trip to a major global power since Moscow's invasion of Ukraine threw his regime into international isolation.

At an official banquet, Mr. Xi delivered a toast in which he alluded to recent geopolitical conflicts, but added that "the historical (trend) of peace" was "unstoppable".

'Hundreds are still under the rubble of hospital hit by Israel'

Israel says it 'will look into the strike'; attack comes on the eve of Biden's trip to the country; calling the act a war crime, Palestinian Health Ministry puts the toll between 200 and 300

Agence France-Presse
Associated Press
GAZA STRIP

Israeli air strikes on a hospital compound in the Gaza Strip killed at least 500 people, officials in the Hamas-run Palestinian territory said on Tuesday, on the eve of U.S. President Joe Biden's visit to the Middle East.

Mr. Biden's visit, potentially the riskiest of his presidency, is expected to see him reaffirm U.S. backing for Israel and try to stop the escalating war against Hamas spiralling into wider conflict.

Thousands of people have been killed since the militants' October 7 attack, with most of the dead on both sides civilians.

The Health Ministry on Tuesday said between 200 and 300 people displaced by 10 days of heavy bombardment were killed in "occupation (Israeli) strikes" at the Ahli Arab hospital in cental Gaza.

Reign of chaos: People gather around bodies of Palestinians killed in the attack on the hospital in central Gaza on Tuesday. AFP

"Hundreds of victims are still under the rubble," a statement said, calling it a "war crime".

Israeli military spokesman Daniel Hagari told a televised press briefing: "We will look into it... the strike happened just a short while ago."

Separately, the UN agency supporting Palestinian refugees said six persons were killed when one of its schools sheltering displaced families was hit, during Israeli air strikes.

Refugee camp bombed

UNRWA commissioner-general Philippe Lazzarini called the bombing at Al-Maghazi refugee camp, also in central Gaza, "outrageous" and warned the death toll would likely rise.

"It again shows a flagrant disregard for the lives of civilians. No place is safe in Gaza anymore, not even UNRWA facilities," he added.

Mr. Biden's trip will come 12 days after the Palestinian militants of Hamas burst through Israel's heavily fortified Gaza border, shooting, mutilating and burning more than 1,400 people.

Nepal and Bangladesh trade charges of sexism, nepotism in their battle for WHO post

Suhasini Haidar
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The contest between Bangladesh and Nepal for the regional head of the World Health Organization has become increasingly heated with allegations of "nepotism" and "sexism" being hurled at the candidates, with the election to be held in Delhi less than two weeks away.

In an interview to *The Hindu*, Bangladesh's Foreign Minister has demanded that Nepal, whose candidate Shambhu Acharya is a WHO veteran, withdraw its candidate for the post, in favour of Bangladesh's candidate Saima Wazed, who is Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's daughter, defending her against the charges of "nepotism".

Ms. Wazed has also alleged that the opposition to her candidature denotes a "vicious strain of sexism" against women competing for "positions of power".

Saima Wazed

'Show results'

"[Nepal's candidate] had been working in the WHO for last 30 years and was in a decision making position. So why have [health indices] not improved in the whole of South East Asian region, even though he himself is a person of South Asian origin?", said Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.K. Abdul Momen, adding that the Nepali candidate should "step down" from the election race for the WHO post.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Acharya refuted the allegations of inefficacy, saying that in fact "the world has made substantial progress in health".

When asked about the Bangladesh government's call to withdraw, Nepal's Health Ministry said that Mr. Acharya is the "most dedicated and capable" candidate, pitting his experience in public health against Ms. Wazed's, who is a psychologist, activist on autism and government advisor.

"Dr Shambhu Acharya has obtained advanced public health degree and possesses profound experience in public health working in different agencies and at different levels...The Regional Director position requires skills in human resource management, institutional management etc. among others which Dr. Acharya has been doing for more than two decades," Nepal's Health Ministry said in a written response to *The Hindu*.

Secret ballot

As *The Hindu* had reported last month, both countries had forwarded their candidatures for Director of the WHO's South East Asian Regional Office (SEARO) earlier this year.

The post will go to the candidate receiving the majority of votes after a secret ballot by 11 regional members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, North Korea, India, Indonesia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste.

After it became clear that there would be a contest during the upcoming SEARO meeting in Delhi from October 30-November 2, an unusually high-profile campaign has followed with Ms. Wazed accompanying Ms. Hasina to a number of international conferences, including the BRICS summit in South Africa, the G-20 summit in Delhi, and the UNGA summit in New York.

India's reaction

The Ministry of External Affairs declined to comment on India's choice in the subcontinental tussle.

However, officials have said that the Bangladesh candidate has "the edge" given her close ties and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise of support during his visit to Dhaka in 2021, that was mentioned in the India-Bangladesh joint statement at the time.

However, the joint statement issued subsequently during Ms. Hasina's visit to Delhi in 2022 does not mention the WHO contest.

India's Poonam Khetrapal has been the WHO SEARO Director since 2014, and will hand over the post to the nominated candidate chosen at the Delhi meeting this month, and following a ratification of the nomination in January 2024.

Polish Opposition wins parliamentary majority in tight vote

Agence France-Presse
WARSAW

Polish pro-EU Opposition parties have won a parliamentary majority in a tight general election, the poll commission said on Tuesday announcing complete results.

The nationalist Law and Justice (PiS) party, which has been ruling for the last eight years, emerged first with 35.38% of the vote but is unlikely to form a majority.

The liberal Civic Coalition bloc finished second at 30.7%, but together with two minor parties, Third Way and Left, secured a majority of 248 lawmakers in the 460-seat Parliament's lower chamber, the poll commission said.

The Opposition also has a majority in the upper house, securing 66 of the 100 seats in the Senate.

Belgian police shoot 'terrorist' who murdered two Swedes

Agence France-Presse
BRUSSELS

Brussels police on Tuesday shot and fatally wounded an attacker accused of gunning down two Swedish football fans in what Belgium's Prime Minister condemned as an act of "terrorist madness".

The police opened fire on the suspect after he was cornered following an overnight manhunt in north central Brussels. He later died of his wounds, prosecutors said.

"The perpetrator of the Brussels terrorist attack was identified and has died," Interior Minister Annelies Verlinden posted on social media.

IS links

Prime Minister Alexander de Croo said the suspect was of Tunisian origin and had been living in the country illegally. In a social media post after the killings, the gunman had boasted of being inspired by the Islamic State extremist group.

"The terrorist attack was committed with total cowardice, the attacker chose as a target two Swedish football fans," Mr. de Croo said, adding that a third person was seriously wounded.

"Terrorism strikes indiscriminately," he said. "It aims to sow fear, mistrust and division in our free societies. Terrorists must know that they will never achieve their goals.

Sport

Ashutosh smashes 11-ball fifty, breaks Yuvraj's record

MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY

Sports Bureau

Ashutosh Sharma scored a record-breaking half-century (53, 12b, 1x4, 8x6) for Railways against Arunachal Pradesh in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy at Ranchi on Tuesday.

Ashutosh brought up his fifty off just 11 balls – the fastest by an Indian batter in T20s beating Yuvraj Singh's 12-ball half-century against England in the 2007 World Cup. Yuvraj had smashed six sixes in an over off Stuart Broad during that innings.

Ashutosh Sharma.

The scores:

Group-A: At Jaipur: Jammu & Kashmir 159/8 in 20 overs (Shubham Pundir 58) lost to Hyderabad 160/2 in 18.3 overs (Rohit Rayudu 38, Tilak Varma 58 n.o., Rahul Singh 35 n.o.). **Points:**

Hyderabad 4 (8), J&K 0 (0).

Meghalaya 65/9 in 20 overs (Tushar Deshpande 3/8) lost to Mumbai 66/1 in 9.4 overs (Angkrish Raghuvanshi 32 n.o.). **Mumbai 4 (8), Meghalaya 0 (0).**

Mizoram 97/7 in 20 overs (Lukman Meriwala 3/12) lost to Baroda 98/4 in 14 overs (Bhanu Pania 36 n.o., K.C. Cariappa 3/17). **Baroda 4 (8), Mizoram 0 (0).**

Haryana 162/5 in 20 overs (Ankit Kumar 59, Himanshu Rana 31) lost to Chhattisgarh 163/6 in 19.2 overs (Harpreet Singh 53, Ajay Mandal 33 n.o.). **Chhattisgarh 4 (8), Haryana 0 (0).**

Group-B: At Mumbai: Assam 200/5 in 20 overs (Rishav Das 32, Riyan Parag 61) bt Bihar 195/4 in 20 overs (Bipin Saurabh 85, Sakibul Gani 65). **Assam 4 (4), Bihar 0 (0).**

Sikkim 90/9 in 20 overs (Sandeep Sharma 3/13) lost to Chandigarh 94/2 in 10.1 overs (Manan Vohra 36 n.o., Shivam Bhambri 33). **Chandigarh 4 (8), Sikkim 0 (0).**

Odisha 138/7 in 20 overs (Abhishek Yadav 38 n.o., Rakesh Pattnaik 40) lost to Himachal Pradesh 140/2 in 16.3 overs (Ekant Sen 39, Prashant Chopra 35, Sumeet Verma 58 n.o.). **HP 4 (4), Odisha 0 (4).**

Kerala 189/3 in 20 overs (Vishnu Vinod 109 n.o., Salman Nizar 42 n.o.) bt Services 188/5 in 20 overs (Shubham Rohilla 41, Vikas Hathwala 40 n.o.). **Kerala 4 (8), Services 0 (4).**

Group-C: At Ranchi: Manipur 122/9 in 20 overs (Johnson Singh 50) lost to Goa 123/4 in 16.2 overs (Ishaan Gedekar 34, K.V. Siddhanth 39). **Goa 4 (8), Manipur 0 (0).**

Punjab 275/6 in 20 overs (Abhishek Sharma 112, Anmolpreet Singh 87) bt Andhra 170/7 in 20 overs (Ricky Bhui 104 n.o., Harpreet Brar 3/18). **Punjab 4 (4), Andhra 0 (0).**

Railways 246/5 in 20 overs (Upendra Yadav 103 n.o., Ashutosh Sharma 53) bt Arunachal Pradesh 119 in 18.1 overs (Ayush Awasthi 36, Susheel Kumar 4/17). **Railways 4 (8), Arunachal 0 (0).**

Saurashtra 122/6 in 16.2 overs (Harvik Desai 41) lost to Gujarat 110/4 in 10.2 overs (Umang Kumar 35 n.o., Chirag Jani 3/21); (Gujarat won by six wickets by VJD method). **Gujarat 4 (8), Saurashtra 0 (4).**

Group-D: At Mohali: Uttarakhand 171/2 in 16.4 overs (Yuvraj Chaudhary 78, Avneesh Sudha 78) bt Maharashtra 105/6 in 11 overs (Azim Kazi 35, Nikhil Naik 33 n.o.). (Uttarakhand won by 23 runs by VJD method). **Uttarakhand 4 (4), Maharashtra 0 (4).**

Bengal 172/7 in 20 overs (Sudip Kumar Gharami 39, Ritwik Roy Chowdhury 51 n.o., Khaleel Ahmed 3/41) bt Rajasthan 143/9 in 20 overs (Abhijeet Tomar 48, Akash Deep 3/29, Ishan Porel 3/20). **Bengal 4 (4), Rajasthan 0 (2).**

Puducherry 188/4 in 20 overs (Akash Kargave 61, Arun Karthik 66 n.o., Parameeswaran Sivaraman 37, Rahul Shukla 3/34) lost to Jharkhand 189/6 in 19.3 overs (Anukul Roy 43, Pankaj Kumar 35 n.o.). **Jharkhand 4 (4), Puducherry 0 (2).**

Group-E: At Dehradun: Madhya Pradesh 115/9 in 20 overs (Rahul Batham 32, Suyash Sharma 5/13) lost to Delhi 119/3 in 19.2 overs (Ayush Badoni 44 n.o.). **Delhi 4 (6), MP 0 (2).**

Tamil Nadu 146/6 in 20 overs (Sai Sudharsan 46, Vijay Shankar 42, Bhuvneshwar Kumar 3/31) bt Uttar Pradesh 138/5 in 20 overs (Sameer Rizvi 75 n.o.). **TN 4 (6), UP 0 (2).**

Nagaland 129/4 in 20 overs (Joshua Ozukum 46, Sedezhalie Rupero 31) lost to Tripura 132/7 in 19.5 overs (Wriddhiman Saha 41, R.S. Jaganath Sinivas 3/29). **Tripura 4 (4), Nagaland 0 (2).**

Austria advances; Netherlands pips Greece in stoppage time

EURO QUALIFIERS

Reuters
LONDON

Austria sealed a place at Euro 2024 on Monday but Sweden missed out on the finals for the first time in 28 years on a night in which its fixture with Belgium was abandoned at halftime after two Swedish nationals were shot dead in Brussels.

Austria's 1-0 victory over Azerbaijan was enough to qualify for next year's tournament in Germany at the expense of the Swedes.

Virgil van Dijk scored a late penalty for the Netherlands three minutes into added-time to snatch a 1-0 win over Greece in Athens.

Historic: Sabitzer's penalty in the 48th minute sealed Austria's continental finals spot. REUTERS

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice as Portugal thumped Bosnia & Herzegovina 5-0 in Zenica.

The results: Group B: Greece 0 lost to Netherlands 1 (Van Dijk 90+3-pen); Gibraltar 0 lost to Republic of Ireland 4 (Ferguson 8, Johnston 28, Doherty 60, Robinson 80). **F:** Azerbaijan 0 lost to Austria 1 (Sabitzer 48-pen); Belgium vs. Sweden (abandoned at half-time).

J: Iceland 4 (Sigurdsson 22-pen, 49, Finnbogason 44, Haraldsson 63) bt Liechtenstein 0; Bosnia and Herzegovina 0 lost to Portugal 5 (Ronaldo 5-pen & 20, Fernandes 25, Cancelo 32, Felix 41); Luxembourg 0 lost to Slovakia 1 (Duris 77).

TOTAL CRICKET

It was an unbelievable effort to get to a par score: Edwards

R.V. MOORTHY

Netherlands skipper Scott Edwards was proud about all 11 of his men contributing to the win. "As a group we pride ourselves on playing Total Cricket, which means guys coming in at No. 8, 9 and 10 have just as much ability to build partnerships. So it was an unbelievable effort to get us to what we thought was a par score."

WELL PLANNED

'We do a fair bit of research and come up with a few match-ups'

R.V. MOORTHY

We feel if we can play well enough on that day, we can beat any side. Happy to get the first victory out of the way. Hopefully, a few more wins. We do a fair bit of research and come up with a few match-ups... some days it works, some days it doesn't — Dutch captain Scott Edwards.

NOT IDEAL

Strategically we got a few things wrong, admits SA coach Walter

R.V. MOORTHY

South Africa coach Rob Walter felt that a few plans may have gone awry. "Strategically we got a few things wrong... maybe the ratios between slower balls and hard lengths. There were also way more extras (31) than we would have liked. At 140 for seven, you are in control. To not be able to close it out at the death is disappointing."

OFF-DAY

'If you aren't switched on, you will be on the wrong side of the result'

R.V. MOORTHY

That's why we love sport. Four days ago we played outstandingly well. Today not so well. You can pick apart results like that but ultimately we weren't good enough. As I said before the World Cup, there are no weak teams. And if you are not switched on, you will find yourself at the wrong side of the result — SA coach Rob Walter.

Flying Dutchmen take the wind out of Proteas' sails

After Edwards' unbeaten 78 lifts the Men in Orange to 245, the bowlers strike regularly to leave Bavuma's men shattered; van der Merwe puts on an all-round show against his former national team

Netting the big fish: Wicketkeeper-batter Edwards complemented his unbeaten half-century with great catches and astute leadership. Here he pouches one to send back de Kock off Ackermann. R.V. MOORTHY

ODI WORLD CUP

N. Sudarshan
DHARAMSHALA

South Africa's unhappy knack of slipping on banana skins surfaced yet again as Netherlands beat the Rainbow Nation by 38 runs for only its third World Cup match-win.

In the rain-shortened 43-overs-a-side affair at the HPCA stadium on Tuesday, the in-form Proteas had to chase 246, way more than they should have after having the Dutchmen at 50 for four. But in a train wreck of a pursuit, Temba Bavuma & Co. wilted to lose its second straight match to the Netherlands at an ICC event after the stunning reverse in the 2022 T20 World Cup.

Quinton de Kock gloved one behind off Colin Ackermann; Bavuma was bowled after failing to read an arm-ball from Roelof van der Merwe (a former South Africa international); Aiden Markram's stumps were rearranged by Paul van Meekeren.

Rassie van der Dussen tried a pressure-releasing reverse sweep off van der Merwe but it travelled straight to backward-point. As South Africa reeled at 44 for four, Heinrich Klaasen (28, 28b, 4x4) and David Miller (43, 52b, 4x4, 1x6) resisted by putting on 45 runs.

But Klaasen hit a perfectly timed pull to Vikramjit Singh's throat at fine-leg and Miller was castled by Logan van Beek. The South African tail wagged, but the victory was nowhere in sight. Earlier, on a lively pitch, the Netherlands top-order struggled against the pace quartet of Lungi Ngidi, Marco Jansen, Kagiso Rabada and Gerald Coetzee. But skipper Scott Edwards' industriousness (78 n.o., 69b, 10x4, 1x6) and some heavy hitting by No. 9 van der Merwe (29, 19b, 3x4, 1x6) and No. 10 Aryan Dutt (23 n.o., 9b, 3x6) resurrected the outfit.

Coming in at 82 for five, Edwards first swept his way out of Keshav Maharaj's web, with the bat almost resembling a groundsman's broom. The 27-year-old collected 30 of his 78 runs off Maharaj.

Edwards then went after Rabada, whacking a six over deep square-leg and backing it up with a hit to the cover fence to bring up his half-century.

From the other end, van der Merwe wielded the willow like an unorthodox sword fighter. What followed was some comical but effective batting as he slayed a six and dabbed a four to the third-man area. Edwards and van der Merwe put on 64 for the eighth wicket off just 36 balls as the score went past 200. The lanky Dutt then clobbered three sixes on the leg-side, much to the delight of the boisterous, underdog-loving crowd. The unbroken ninth-wicket stand of 41 (19b) gave the total a winning halo.

SCOREBOARD

NETHERLANDS
Vikramjit Singh c Klaasen b Rabada 2 *(16b)*, Max O'Dowd c de Kock b Jansen 18 *(25b, 4x4)*, Colin Ackermann b Coetzee 12 *(25b, 1x4)*, Bas de Leede lbw b Rabada 2 *(7b)*, Sybrand Engelbrecht c Jansen b Ngidi 19 *(37b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Teja Nidamanuru lbw b Jansen 20 *(25b, 3x4)*, Scott Edwards (not out) 78 *(69b, 10x4, 1x6)*, Logan van Beek st. de Kock b Maharaj 10 *(27b, 1x4)*, Roelof van der Merwe c de Kock b Ngidi 29 *(19b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Aryan Dutt (not out) 23 *(9b, 3x6)*; Extras (lb-10, w-21, nb-1): 32; Total (for eight wkts. in 43 overs): 245.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-22 (Vikramjit, 6.1 overs), 2-24 (O'Dowd, 7.1), 3-40 (de Leede, 10.5), 4-50 (Ackermann, 15.1), 5-82 (Engelbrecht, 20.2), 6-112 (Nidamanuru, 26.6), 7-140 (van Beek, 33.5), 8-204 (van der Merwe, 39.5).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Ngidi 9-1-57-2, Jansen 8-1-27-2, Rabada 9-1-56-2, Coetzee 8-0-57-1, Maharaj 9-0-38-1.

SOUTH AFRICA
Temba Bavuma b van der Merwe 16 *(31b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Quinton de Kock c Edwards b Ackermann 20 *(22b, 3x4)*, Rassie van der Dussen c Dutt b van der Merwe 4 *(7b)*, Aiden Markram b van Meekeren 1 *(3b)*, Heinrich Klaasen c Vikramjit b van Beek 28 *(28b, 4x4)*, David Miller b van Beek 43 *(52b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Marco Jansen b van Meekeren 9 *(25b)*, Gerald Coetzee c Edwards b de Leede 22 *(23b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Keshav Maharaj c Edwards b van Beek 40 *(37b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Kagiso Rabada c Engelbrecht b de Leede 9 *(6b, 1x6)*, Lungi Ngidi (not out) 7 *(24b)*; Extras (lb-2, w-5, nb-1): 8; Total (in 42.5 overs): 207.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-36 (de Kock, 7.6), 2-39 (Bavuma, 9.1), 3-42 (Markram, 10.2), 4-44 (van der Dussen, 11.2), 5-89 (Klaasen, 18.5), 6-109 (Jansen, 24.6), 7-145 (Miller, 30.6), 8-147 (Coetzee, 33.1), 9-166 (Rabada, 35.1).

NETHERLANDS BOWLING
Dutt 5-1-19-0, van Beek 8.5-0-60-3, Ackermann 3-0-16-1, van Meekeren 9-0-40-2, van der Merwe 9-0-34-2, de Leede 8-0-36-2.

Toss: South Africa.
PoM: Edwards.
Netherlands won by 38 runs.

Next assignment

NETHERLANDS: October 21 vs. **Sri Lanka,** *Lucknow, 10.30 a.m.*

SOUTH AFRICA: October 21 vs. **England,** *Mumbai, 2 p.m.*

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
India	3	3	0	6	1.821
New Zealand	3	3	0	6	1.604
South Africa	3	2	1	4	1.385
Pakistan	3	2	1	4	-0.137
England	3	1	2	2	-0.084
Afghanistan	3	1	2	2	-0.652
Bangladesh	3	1	2	2	-0.699
Australia	3	1	2	2	-0.734
Netherlands	3	1	2	2	-0.993
Sri Lanka	3	0	3	0	-1.532

Consistent India has set it up nicely for tougher battles on the road ahead

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
PUNE

Strike force: Siraj and Bumrah have combined well to deal timely blows. K.R. DEEPAK

Traversing India's geographical diversity is inevitable for the Men in Blue while they chase World Cup glory. Be it the humid Coromandel Coast, northern hinterland, Gujarat's dusty plains or now the leap across the Western Ghats just in time for Thursday's clash against Bangladesh here at the MCA Stadium close to the Mumbai-Pune Expressway, Rohit Sharma's men have been busy travellers.

In the weeks ahead more air miles await as the host is bound to leave footprints far and wide, be it the Himalayas, Gangetic Plains, the coasts (west and east) and the Deccan Plateau. Hopefully, the final destination will be Ahmedabad, the venue for the summit clash on November 19. But it is a milestone that is a month away and the Indian team would rather 'focus on the process'.

Three emphatic wins over Australia, Afghanistan and Pakistan has left India in a good space. The margin of triumphs, all secured while chasing – by six wickets, eight wickets and seven wickets – reveal a top and middle-order that have delivered despite the ghastly two for three in that initial phase against the Aussies. The return of Shubman Gill augurs well while the old guard of skipper Rohit and his predecessor Virat Kohli have clicked. K.L. Rahul and Shreyas Iyer too have been among the runs.

Tougher battles on the road ahead seem unavoidable but the batting is in good nick and the bowlers, led by Jasprit Bumrah, have delivered. Mohammed Siraj, after a middling outing against Afghanistan, belatedly found his rhythm against Pakistan. As a bowling unit, India has controlled the middle overs, its batting core has sparkled and the fielding has been adequate and efficient, and all these constitute a recipe for success.

But there could be some vulnerable spots. India's batting has not been fully tested. Hardik Pandya got one hit, while the rest, from Ravindra Jadeja to the tail, are yet to stride towards the batting crease. In cricketing utopia, especially in ODIs, it is best if just the main batters do the job.

However, reality could spring a nasty surprise as it did in the 2019 World Cup semifinal against New Zealand at Manchester. Rohit, Rahul and Virat scored a solitary run each and despite the resistance lower down the order from Hardik, M.S. Dhoni and Jadeja, India lost the game by 19 runs.

In the current edition, India does have a weak tail, a reality that the management is attempting to mask by fielding three all-rounders in the eleven: Hardik, Jadeja and Shardul Thakur. The odd inquisition may happen but the squad exudes a quiet confidence, evident in the scintillating performance on the field and from the happy behind-the-scenes videos that the management posts on social media.

Living in the present, quelling one opponent at a time and being ready if and when a match crisis pops up remain the key, besides staying fit, both physically and mentally. The coming days, be it in Pune or in Dharamshala, should offer further hints about India's progress into the last four.

Indian team prefers to practise at full strength at 'optional session'

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
PUNE

The sun was descending in the skies while the foothills of the Western Ghats offered an imposing backdrop. Suddenly a group of fans ran across the undulating terrain around the MCA Stadium here on Tuesday. Peering hard and gesticulating with their hands, cricket's followers were eager to catch a glimpse of their sporting deities.

Soon a security vehicle's siren blared and the Indian team bus slipped into view while on the nearby expressway, vehicles sped towards either Pune or Mumbai.

Originally scheduled as an optional session, the team, though, preferred to be at full strength. Rohit Sharma and Rahul Dravid sauntered towards the centre-square, gazing at the pitch and then the skipper who shadow-practised a few shots, had a chat with the coach.

Once nets commenced, Virat Kohli was at his aggressive best. The warning call 'watch it' was screamed often as the batter lofted with impunity. One shot flew towards the rest of his teammates in a huddle, and instinctively many heads ducked, and a few other strokes thudded into the stands. Kohli's batting colleagues had their stints and Ravindra Jadeja too had a hit.

On fire: Virat Kohli was at his aggressive best at the nets, lofting with impunity. K.R. DEEPAK

The bowlers hit their straps with Mohammed Shami steaming in sharp. The nets, as usual, were split into throw-downs, spin and pace while some local bowlers too lent a hand.

High catches were also practised in the deep as the unit, after two days of rest following Saturday's win against Pakistan in Ahmedabad, preferred to train hard under lights.

On Thursday, India will play its World Cup game against Bangladesh and in the stands some fans from the neighbouring country, sporting caps topped with stuffed tiger dolls, watched the proceedings besides offering quotes in Bengali to a section of the media.

Meanwhile, the Men in Blue, clad in their orange training jerseys, continued their sessions.

INBRIEF

Digvijay defeats Siddhant in straight sets to advance

Digvijay Pratap Singh defeated Siddhant Banthia 6-2, 7-6(7) in the round-of-32 of the $25,000 ITF Dharwad Men's World Tennis Tour 2023 at the Dharwad District Lawn Tennis Association courts on Tuesday. In another encounter, Nitin Kumar Sinha took out wild card entrant Rishi Reddy 6-2, 6-2. Former India cricket team captain Mohammed Azharuddin attended the inauguration ceremony.

AITA mulls disciplinary action against Mukund Sasikumar

The AITA is contemplating action against Mukund Sasikumar for not wearing the official jersey during the Davis Cup tie against Morocco and has also introduced a players' code of conduct to ensure 'discipline' in future. In the opening singles of the World Group II play-off tie against Yassine Dlimi on September 16, Mukund wore the jersey provided by his personal sponsor.

With New Zealand up next, Afghanistan will look to build on its stunning win

Losing wickets in a cluster in the middle phase of the innings is a cause for concern for Shahidi's men who will be keen to overcome the problem; the Kiwis, with three victories under their belt, will be determined to continue their march and maintain their unbeaten record

ODI WORLD CUP

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

Afghanistan players, with the wind behind their sails after beating England comprehensively two days ago, will look to build on only its second World Cup win when it takes on New Zealand at the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium on Wednesday.

More than the result, what was impressive about Afghanistan's 69-run win in Delhi on Sunday was how it outplayed the defending champion and always had its nose ahead throughout the match.

Right from Rahmanullah Gurbaz's brutal onslaught at the top of the order – as he and Ibrahim Zadran added 114-run for the opening wicket – Afghanistan came out all guns blazing before its spinners spun a web around the English batters.

Web masters: The Afghanistan spin trio of Mujeeb, Nabi and Rashid will strive to bamboozle the Kiwis.
M. VEDHAN

After being bundled out cheaply in its first match against Bangladesh, Afghanistan batters had much more disciplined performances in the two games against India and England, albeit on the most batting-friendly pitches seen so far in the tournament.

At the same time, the side will also be aware that it left runs on the table in the last two matches as it lost wickets in a cluster during the middle phase of the innings. Ahead of the match against the Kiwis, the Afghan skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi cited it as an area the team needs to work on. If it can put the runs on board, the team has a good depth in bowling to trouble most teams on its day.

Meanwhile, New Zealand, once again without skipper Kane Williamson, will look to continue its march and keep its unbeaten record. The team has gone about its business in its inimitable style, with almost every player delivering so far in their well-defined roles.

Ability to strike

The key to the Black Caps' three wins has been their ability to take wickets through the middle phase, with the likes of Mitchell Santner, Matt Henry and Lockie Ferguson coming good.

While the Tom Latham-led side will be wary of the spin threat of Rashid Khan, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, and Mohammad Nabi, New Zealand will still feel it holds the edge, having been in the city for the last week and having a good read of the conditions.

Today's match

NEW ZEALAND CRICKET vs. Afghanistan Cricket Board
New Zealand — Afghanistan
Chennai, 2 p.m.

H2H IN ODIs

Played 2

New Zealand	Afghanistan
2	0

EYE ON THE SKY

High: 35°C
Low: 26°C
Partly cloudy
SOURCE: IMD

SNAPSHOTS

Sindhu, Aakarshi advance; Lakshya, Srikanth bow out

Indian shuttlers P.V. Sindhu and Aakarshi Kashyap advanced to the women's singles second round, but it was curtains for K. Srikanth and Lakshya Sen in the men's event at the Denmark Open Super 750 badminton tournament here on Tuesday.

Goa enters final round

Goa beat a strong Kerala by a solitary goal in the concluding round of the Group A league at its home in Benaulim on Tuesday to progress to the final round of the senior National football championship for the Santosh Trophy.

Important results: Group A: Goa 1 (Trijoy Savio Dias 57) bt Kerala 0; Gujarat 4 (Dharmesh Parmar 6, Chinkhosiam Dimngel 45+1, Tufel Hingora 79, 90+4) bt Chhattisgarh 0
Group C: Tamil Nadu 1 (Kamalesh P. 32) drew with Nagaland 1 (Kevisanyu Peseyie 61). **Group D:** Railways 1 (Shabaz Pathan 43) bt Bihar 0.
Group E: Uttarakhand 7 (Ayush Bisht 6, 45, Hitik Walia 35, Anuj Rawat 45+4, Yash Bisht 55, Shailendra Negi 74, 90+2) bt Pondicherry 1 (Rajesh 9).
Group F: Maharashtra 6 (Pavan Vijay Mali 15, Himanshu Patil 25, Advait 55, 61, 90+5, Johnson Mathews 67) bt Andhra Pradesh 0.

Andhra Pradesh pips Kerala

Andhra Pradesh edged out Kerala 3-2 in a boys' match of the Hockey India-first South Zone sub-junior (u-15) hockey championships in Chennai on Tuesday.

The results: Boys: Karnataka bt Le Puducherry 5-0; AP bt Kerala 3-2; HUTN bt Telangana 4-0.
Girls: Karnataka bt Le Puducherry 12-0; Andhra Pradesh bt Kerala 11-2; HUTN bt Telengana 18-0.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Denmark Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.30 p.m. onwards
Men's Cricket World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2 p.m.

It takes more than just teams to make a match; fans are important too

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

India's cricket in the World Cup so far has been excellent. Things are falling into place with a rapidity that must worry the other teams, although one hopes that New Zealand get a fair tilt.

They were denied in 2019 when they lost the final to England through a combination of bad luck, bad rules and bad umpiring.

However, in denying visas for fans from Pakistan, India have displayed a churlishness that sits badly on a nation of its size and influence. The Board of Control for Cricket in India has been acting like an arm of the government since the Home Minister's son took over as its secretary. In India, sport *is* politics.

The most telling comment after the much-hyped but ultimately one-sided India-Pakistan encounter came from Pakistan's team director Mickey Arthur.

"It didn't seem like an International Cricket Council (ICC) event; it seemed like a (domestic) BCCI event," he said referring to the lack of Pakistan supporters in the vast Narendra Modi stadium in Ahmedabad.

The website *ESPNcricinfo* calculated there were just four American-Pakistanis to cheer the team. Only a handful of journalists got visas.

In 2011, about 6500 visas were issued for fans from Pakistan for the semifinal in Mohali where India and Pakistan met.

Sport can divide peoples just as easily as it can bring them together if that is what the government of the day wants.

Pakistan has been painted as India's 'other', the enemy who encourages terrorism. As a political entity, Pakistan have lived up to this image often enough, with the attacks in Mumbai in 2008 and the wars fought between the two countries a matter of historical record.

The worst insult a politician (and the trolling fraternity) can deliver to a dissenting citizen is: "Go live in Pakistan!" Nuance is not a quality either possesses. You can, however, cheer for an India win while bemoaning that fans of the other side were not allowed into the country. Once it was decided that the cricket team was welcome, visas for fans should have followed.

That the visas for the team were delayed, as was the visa for the Pakistan-born Australian opener Usman Khawaja when that country toured earlier points to a pattern.

Sporting competition is not just about two teams facing each other. If that were the case, we wouldn't need big stadiums. Supporters play a role too, cheering and living vicariously through the feats of those actually performing.

Whenever Indian and Pakistani fans have got together to watch their teams, they have been grateful for the chance. Many wear outfits with half the colours of one team and half the other's.

Some carry flags stitched together to emphasise oneness. Each group has supported its own team. Some sections from both groups have tended to overdo things, but that is not unusual.

Player-taunting

Pakistani players were taunted with religious chants in Ahmedabad. This is in keeping with the attitude of the visa-denying authorities. Pakistani fans have taunted Indian players too in the past. In fact, player-taunting is a traditional sport in stadiums around the world. There are rules in place to handle racism in the chants, but none that deal with religion or gender identity.

It is ironical that for all their animosity towards Pakistan, the authorities love an India-Pakistan cricket match. It is a huge money-spinner, it gives politicians an opportunity to be seen by millions on television (the Home Minister was seen waving the victory sign once it became clear India were winning), and there is the feel-good factor which distracts from political, social and economic issues. It is the same in Pakistan too.

The fond hope now is that the two clash in the final at the same venue. It will be interesting to see politicians appear or disappear depending on how their team is faring.

There is a chance that the teams might meet earlier, in the semifinal; if they do, then obviously only one will play the final.

Now with India hoping to bid for the 2036 Olympics, they will have to work on '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*' (the world is one family), the theme that was given yet another airing at the G20 meeting recently. The International Olympic Committee may not take kindly to selective hosting.

Basavangudi Aquatic Centre swimmers hog the limelight on second day of Dasara CM Cup

Sports Bureau
MYSURU

Basavangudi Aquatic Centre, Bengaluru, swimmers ruled the pool with some excellent performance both in the men's and women's sections, winning 12 golds on the first day of the swimming competition in the Dasara CM Cup here on Tuesday.

Naisha Shetty of Dolphin Aquatics, Bengaluru, claimed four golds in the women's 100m backstroke, 100m butterfly, 200m backstroke and 100m freestyle.

Mysuru's S. Thanya (Dolphin Aquatics), won gold medals in 100m breaststroke and 50m backstroke and silver in 200m medley.

Bengaluru women's tennis team, represented by Sharmada Balu, M. Suhitha and S. Prathiba beat Mandya 2-0 for the title. Mysuru defeated Chitradurga 2-0 to take the third place.

Davangere beat Mysuru 2-1 in the final to clinch the men's tennis team title while Bengaluru beat Mandya 2-0 to finish third.

Prolific: Naisha (Dolphin Aquatics, Bengaluru), who clinched four golds, in action.

Solid performance: Thanya S. (Dolphin Aquatics, Bengaluru), who won two golds and a silver, in action.

The results:

Men (winners only): Football: Mandya 0 drew with Dakshina Kannada 0 (Mandya won 4-3 via penalty shootout); Shivamogga w/o Belagavi.
Handball: Bengaluru Rural bt Koppal 26-10; Bengaluru City bt Dakshina Kannada 21-10.
Hockey: Hassan bt Haveri 3-1.
Kabaddi: Dakshina Kannada bt Mandya 41-38; Hassan bt Bengaluru City 45-41.
Kho-Kho: Raichur bt Dharwad 18-17 (by 1 point & an innings); Bengaluru bt Haveri 14-13 (by one point & an innings); Belagavi bt Mysuru 12-10; Bagalkot bt Vijayanagar 14-13.
Netball: semifinal: Dakshina Kannada bt Bengaluru City 50-31; Mysuru bt Chamarajanagar 34-30.
League results: Mysuru bt Bengaluru City 39-34; Mysuru bt Chikmagalur 30-18; Dakshina Kannada bt Ramnagar 25-11; Bengaluru Rural bt Chamarajanagar 31-11; Dakshina Kannada bt Bengaluru Rural 34-15.
Shooting: (only winners) 25m std. pistol new: Rakesh Manpat (530 pts, Bengaluru); **50m free pistol ISSF new:** Rakshit Shastry (532 pts, Bengaluru City); **50m rifle 3P new:** Goutham Vogga (573 pts, Bengaluru City).
Swimming: 1500m freestyle: H.M. Prashans (18:10.79s, BAC); **100m back stroke:** S. Vishwanathan (1:06:87s, PM Swim Centre, Bengaluru); **50m backstroke:** D.S. Pruthvik (31.32s, BAC); **100m butterfly:** M. Pruthvi (59.28s, BAC); **400m freestyle:** N. Dhoneesh (4:22.36s, Vijayanagar Aquatic centre); **200m backstroke:** Dhyan Balakrishna (2:15.90s, BAC); **100m breaststroke:** D.S. Pruthvik (1:09.86s, BAC); **100m freestyle:** M. Pruthvi (54.79s, BAC); **4x200m freestyle relay:** BAC 'A'(8:29.38s).
Tennis: final: Davangere bt Mysuru 2-1; **third place:** Bengaluru bt Mandya 2-0.
Volleyball: Mysuru bt KSP 25-21, 25-22.
Women (winners only):
Hockey: Belagavi bt Dharwad 9-0; Mysuru bt Bagalkot 1-0; Belagavi bt Hassan 4-3.
Kabaddi: Belagavi bt Gadag 40-15; Chickmanglur bt Mysuru 37-26; Dakshina Kannada bt Ramnagar 35-6.
Kho-Kho: Mysuru bt Haveri 6-5; Belagavi bt Gulbarga 13-9; Belagavi bt Haveri 9-7; Mysuru bt Gadag 15-8.
Netball: Bengaluru Rural bt Dakshina Kannada 26-4; Udupi bt Chamarajanagar 23-20; Tumkur bt Mysuru 44-26; Ramnagar bt Bengaluru City 33-6.
Shooting: (winners only): 50m rifle 3P new: Anusha H Thakur (576 pts); **25m sports pistol new:** Rohita Gotety.
Swimming: 1500m freestyle: Aditi N. Mulay (18:29.23s, BAC); **100m backstroke:** Naisha Shetty (1:11.17s, Dolphin Aquatics, Bengaluru); **50m backstroke:** S. Thanya (36.81s Dolphin Aquatics, Bengaluru); **100m butterfly:** Naisha Shetty (1:06:72s, Dolphin Aquatics); **200m medley:** Vihitha Nayana (2:30.81s, BAC); **400m freestyle:** Aditi N. Mulay (4:43.81s, BAC); **200m** backstroke**:** Naisha Shetty (2:39.53s, Dolphin Aquatics); **100m breaststroke:** S. Thanya (1:17.92s, Dolphin Aquatics); **100m freestyle:** Naisha Shetty (1:03.23s, Dolphin Aquatics); **4x200m freestyle relay:** BAC 'A' (9:17.79s).
Volleyball: DYES, Bengaluru bt Hassan 25-12, 25-14; Mysuru bt Haveri 25-3, 25-4.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

FC Deccan gets the better of MFAR Students Union

FC Deccan edged out MFAR Students Union 2-1 in the BDFA Super Division men's football league here on Tuesday.

The results:

FC Deccan 2 (M. Nishal 37, Rakesh Singh 90+7) bt MFAR Students Union 1 (Lal Lanmukima 90+5); MEG & Center 0 drew with Bangalore Independents FC 0.

New Ashoka too good for Primrose

New Ashoka HC defeated Primrose HC 4-2 in the KSHA-BHA 'C' Division hockey league here on Tuesday.

The results: New Ashoka HC 4 (Errol Andrade 8, 36, Christy Raj 12, Elton 42) bt Primrose HC 2 (Arnold 21, Ryan 31).

Narrow win for Maatru Pratishtna

Maatru Pratishtna took out BFC 3-2 in the Karnataka Women's League women's Super Division football league here on Tuesday.

The results:

Maatru Pratishtna 3 (Nishanthi 50, T.R. Harshitha 58, Nancy 70) bt BFC 2 (Chinmayi Tili 10, Annika Navaneet 32).